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TELEGRAPH,

AND TEXAS REGISTER.

VOL. I.

San Felipe de Austin, Saturday, February 20, 1836.

NO. 16.

DECLARATION

And representation of the prisoners, executed at Tampico.

We, the undersigned, prisoners of war, condemned to be shot on Monday next, the 14th inst., at 7, P. M., by a court martial, conformable to the established customs of the country, and composed of officers of the Mexican army, the sentence being read and interpreted to us on Saturday at 4, P. M., by captain Alexander Paulac, of said army, as our last dying words do declare ourselves innocent of the charge of either participating or colleaguizing with any person or party, having for its object the revolutionizing or disturbing in any manner the tranquillity of the government of Mexico, and that the testimony given before the honorable court of enquiry will corroborate this declaration, the facts and circumstances being briefly as follow:

That about one hundred and thirty men, composed of Americans, French and Germans, two-thirds of which being of the first named class, (including three who are natives of foreign nations, but naturalized,) embarked, on the 6th of November last, on board the American schooner Mary Jane, captain Hall, said to have been chartered or employed by a committee, of which Mr. William Christy, of New Orleans, was the agent, to convey emigrants to Texas, then understood to be at variance with the Mexican government. This opportunity afforded many in pecuniary circumstances, a passage free, which was readily embraced and accepted of. The terms agreed upon were that it was optional whether the party took up arms in defence of Texas or not; that they were at full liberty to act as they pleased when landed on the Texian shore. That taking advantage of this favorable opportunity, they accordingly embarked, the vessel proceeded on the voyage, and nothing transpired to indicate a belief but that all was right as it should be, until the sixth day we were out from the Balize, although it had been previously understood that a general, with his officers or staff, was on board the vessel, whose design was to act in concert with the Texians, and induce us to join him. Of this, however, we received no certain assent, but the truth is, Tampico was our destination, and an attack on that city the design, which was now evident and not before: the land being in sight, and the vessel standing in, it was announced that it was Tampico; that the steamboat, then also in sight, would have us in tow, and Tampico would be in our possession. Elated with this harangue, proceeding from the authority (through the instrumentality of captain Hawkins, one of the aids) of general Mexico, some were induced to join his standard, but of these the number could not have exceeded fifty, thirty-five of whom were French

and Creoles, of New Orleans, who doubtless had a previous understanding, they having the quarterdeck to themselves, and seemingly armed and equipped prematurely. The boat had us in tow soon, and all that could be crammed below were driven there until she struck the bar, and the steam boat soon afterwards. In this awful predicament, night closing on us, the sea breaking over us, efforts were used to reach the shore, which, at eminent danger, was effected safely, and all were landed during the latter part of the night, and early part of the morning of the following day. A formidable fort surrendered without an attack, and we built fires to dry our clothing. The party were now tendered arms and ammunition, and, never having been soldiers before, some probably took them from curiosity, others from necessity, and others from compulsion; and it is asserted and believed, that no person was or had been acquainted with two others of the number of us, so added to the hurry and bustle of the officers, that before we could have an understanding, we were commingled and bundled together more like a hoard or drove of swine, than a company of soldiers competent to act as such, particularly against regularly trained soldiers. At about 5, P. M., on Sunday, we were formed and made ready for the attack, having added to our number about from thirty-five to fifty citizens, soldiers and adherents, and which were all judged to Mexicans, a number being fellow prisoners with us, but without trial to this moment. Having no other resource we were necessarily compelled, from obvious reasons, reluctantly to join the party, with a full determination not to act in concert with it, but to submit ourselves as prisoners of war, having no design or intention to fight; and without one single exception, every individual of the undersigned, from motives of conscience, and oppression added to the shameful abduction or deception practised on us, and chose to throw ourselves on the clemency and mercy of the authorities, and this being the substance of our testimony before the court, yet notwithstanding, mark the result which has terminated, not in an ignominious, but christianlike death. Trusting in God, and bearing in mind his promise, and with our trust in his mercies, we die both as christians and men.

We have now but nine hours allotted us, and conclude hastily by requesting all who may hear of our fate, to entertain no erroneous impression.

List of persons under sentence of death by order of a military tribunal, held at Tampico, to be shot on Monday, 14th December, 1835.

Arthur N. Clement, native of Pennsylvania, aged 40 years. No parents.

Thomas Whitaker, native of Pennsylvania, aged 30, Father in Pennsylvania.

Wm. C. Barclay, native of New York, aged 20. Parents in New York.

Jacob Morison, native of New York, aged 21. Parents in Kentucky.

Edward Mount, native of New York, aged 23. Mother in state of New York.

Charles Gross, native of Pennsylvania, aged 23. Mother in Pennsylvania.

Isaac F. Leeds, native of New Jersey, aged 30. No parents.

Mordecai Gist, native of Maryland, aged 53. Father in Maryland. His own last residence Indiana.

David Long, native of Ohio, aged 25. Mother in Ohio.

Wm. H. Mackay, native of Virginia, aged 20. Mother in Virginia.

Jonas K. Stuart, native of Vermont, aged 33. Mother in Vermont.

Daniel Holt, native of Canada, aged 18. Parents in Canada.

James Cramp, native of England, aged 22. Parents in Oswego, N. Y.

Lewis Jacobs, native of England, aged 21. Mother in Lower Canada.

Thos. H. Rogers, native of Ireland, aged 23. Parents in Ireland.

Daniel Donnelly, native of Ireland, aged 20. Parents in St. Johns, N. B.

James Farrell, native of Ireland, aged 23. Father in Greene co., N. Y.

John M. Ives, native of England, aged 35. No parents, 2 brothers in New Orleans.

Auguste Saint Cyr, native of France, aged 22. Parents in France.

Auguste Demoussent, native of France, aged 25. Parents in France.

Fred. Delboy, native of Dantzic, aged 24. Parents in Dantzic.

Fk. Wm. Mauer, native of Germany, aged 22. Parents in Saxony.

Henry Wagner, native of Germany, aged 24. No parents, last residence Philad.

John Irish, native of Germany, aged 24. No parents.

Andreas Helm, native of Germany, aged 50. No parents.

George J. Selin, native of Germany, aged 27. Father in Germany.

Wm. H. Morris, native of New Providence, aged 28. No parents.

L. M. Bellepoint, native of Hanover, aged 26. No parents.

Three prisoners died in the hospital, viz:

Fleming, aged about 25, native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Harris Blood, aged 40, native of England.

Jas. McCormick, aged 30, native of Kentucky.

The following is a letter from one of the prisoners to his friend in this city,

TAMPICO, Dec. 13, 1835. 9 o'clock P. M.

Dear friend,—I will in as few words as possible, give you intelligence of my fate,

which is an untimely one. To-morrow morning before sunrise, together with 27 of my companions, we are to be shot, according to orders given to us by a court martial of Mexican soldiers or officers, for an attack on this city on the 15th November last. I for my part am perfectly reconciled to my fate.

There is no use in giving the particulars of the battle; I am pretty sure you must have heard it before; I at the time of the engagement, received a wound in the head with a ball, and another through the right hand. I have been in the hospital until this afternoon from the morning of the battle. No money can save us—even five thousand dollars was offered for any individual—there was likewise offered one hundred thousand dollars as a ransom for all, which was refused. The reason of it is, they want to deter others from embracing the cause of liberty. This is a regular massacre. We should have been treated as prisoners of war. I hope the American nation will revenge our deaths. I have but a few hours to live—so God bless you all! Farewell forever!

JAMES FARRELL.

To Mr. Garretson, New Orleans.

P. S.—Write to my relations. You are the only one I have written to. I can say no more. J. F.

From the New Orleans Bee.

MR. EDITOR,

A sense of justice towards myself and the committee alluded to in the address of that portion of General Mexia's men, who have been shot at Tampico, as published by you, requires that I should correct the errors (to say the least of them) into which they have fallen in their statement: I do so reluctantly, as they are no more, but truth should never be violated, even by dying men; when such violation impugns the motives and conduct of others.

It is not true that the committee through me, or myself, chartered the vessel in which General Mexia sailed. The vessel as I understood from him, was purchased by himself, or by some friend for his use. The committee did not pay a dollar to aid him in fitting out his expedition, nor did I.

As chairman of the committee, every man who went with Mexia, voluntarily called upon me for information, my answer was the same to all, that I could give them none as regarded particulars; that they knew of the difficulties that existed between the people of Texas and other parts of Mexico; that if they went with Mexia, they must go as individuals emigrating; that no enlistment of them could take place here, nor any contract entered into in relation to pay; that if did go they must rely upon the generosity of the Texans in case of success, that in case of failure, they would be treated as rebels; that Mexia's destination was not known, & that the whole business was one of experiment now fraught with danger, and that if they had any business to follow at home, I would advise them not to go.

With such information as this, given to them individually and collectively they put themselves under the command of General Mexia, promising to rely entirely on his judgment, to obey him as their commanding general, implicitly in all things, and to stand with him at whatever point he might think

proper to select, it being well understood however, that they were to go beyond any port in Texas.

And as a proof of these facts, it is only necessary to add, that most of them were from two to three weeks, detained here at the expense of the general, which afforded them ample time to change their mind. It is not therefore true that they had no intention of either participating or colleaguizing with any person or party, having for its object the revolutionizing or disturbing in any manner the tranquility of the government of Mexico.

Thy all went with this intention fully determined upon and expressed; expressed too to General Mexia, to whom they made strong protestations of fidelity, and at whose expense they were equipped, clothed and conveyed.

WM. CHRISTY.

I hereby declare that I was in the office of Mr. Wm. Christy, during the whole of the time that applications were made to him for information on the subject of General Mexia's expedition; that I have heard every answer given by Mr. Christy to such applications, and that the above statement is correct in every particular.

W. G. LATHAM.

TELEGRAPH.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1836.

Our patrons are entitled to an apology for the delay in the publication of the present number. Since the commencement of our printing establishment, we have labored under great disadvantages, incident to countries so far from commercial transactions; first, for want of hands, and in the next place for want of paper.

At the time of sending for the press we did not anticipate the quantity of business, nor so large a subscription list, which so soon exhausted our stock of paper; and although we sent, in September, for more paper and additional materials, obstacles which it was out of our power to remove, have prevented our receiving them, though we understand that a sufficient supply has now arrived, and we have made arrangements to prevent an occurrence of future disappointments.

Advertisements must be paid for at the time of handing them in. Job printing must be settled previous to its leaving the office—public printing excepted.

The highest wages will be given at this office for a good journeyman printer.

Mr. Ward, one of the volunteer greys, who was so unfortunate to lose one of his legs in the storming of Bejar, while bravely engaged with the cannon, is now in this place. Although his wound is not yet healed, we are happy to hear that it is doing well. For the timely and indispensable aid which the New Orleans Greys rendered Texas in the reduction of Bejar, they merit the gratitude of every citizen.

It has never been the object of this paper to forestall public opinion, and to crowd upon the people our own views in a matter so important as that touching a change of government. We have endeavored to present facts, and the publication of public documents, believing that a community composed of Americans would draw just conclusions, and act correctly when in possession of all the evidence. To have advocated a declaration of independence, before understanding the true situation of the Mexican government, and without any assurance of assistance from the United States, would have been a rashness to which others as well as ourselves might have fallen victims. We therefore publish in this week's paper, the proceedings of public meetings, and letters from which

our readers can draw their own conclusions as to the course which Texas ought to pursue.

The knowledge which our commissioners have of the situation of Texas, and the relations which exist between this country and the United States, enable them to speak in a question of so much importance as that of independence, to a greater degree of credit than individuals of less opportunity. We understand that they had effected a loan in the city of New Orleans, of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, but only ten per cent. could be advanced at the time. A letter which we have seen states that the readiness of the citizens of New Orleans to lend so large an amount of money, as well as the lively interest every where taken in the United States, for the safety of Texas, leaves the commissioners no longer doubtful what course she ought to take. Few have doubted the right to declare independence. The expediency of such a measure, many as well as ourselves have doubted. The commissioners believe that we shall obtain all the aid we need if we declare independence, and are united among ourselves. They believe it is pretty clearly shown that the central government of Mexico will be sustained. That all the disposable force and means of the nation will be directed towards Texas. That the power of the liberals is impotent, and can avail us nothing, and that to postpone a separation which self-preservation points out, would be only to put further from us that political prosperity which we might expect from a government formed by ourselves, and adapted to our circumstances. They are, we understand, all of one opinion as to what should be done. Nothing is wanted but union, firmness and energy at home. Texas now stands high; and they think we should increase her character by a bold stand and not give up one inch of ground, or one step we have made towards independence.

We learn that it was rumoured at New Orleans that we had civil wars at this place, which had alarmed the friends of Texas, and discouraged them very much. It is thought by the people there, that we should all harmonize, and it is a matter of surprise with them, that we should differ at a time like the present, when all hearts should give an impulse to every hand to ward off the uplifted blow of despotic power. Why, say they, should there be any material difference of opinion as to the general policy to be pursued with regard to the safety of the country?

We are glad to understand that the troops which have lately arrived are well supplied with provisions, and that the army now in the field have the prospect of a good stock of bread stuffs, &c. Indeed we had been doubtful whether we should, not before spring suffer more from hunger than from the Mexicans. Corn is scarce at this place, at \$2.00 per bushel; pork \$6 per hundred, by the hog, and all kinds of provisions in proportion. This, to our friends in the United States may appear strange after our boast of so much fertile soil; but they will reflect that in countries abounding in gold coins, the citizens do not turn much of their labor to the raising of bread. The same in Texas: the high price of cotton, and the facility with which it can be produced has induced many of our farmers, as well as the planters, to neglect the raising of more provisions than would supply themselves.

Arrived, 28th January, the Texian armed schooner Liberty, captain J. Brown.

Same day, schr. Tamaulipas, captain Mingie, cargo public stores. Schr. Caroline, cargo, public stores. Schr. Pennsylvania, captain Hott, with one hundred men commanded by captain A. Turner. We understand these troops will repair to Matagorda, and wait orders from the Provisional Government. It is hoped, if no other important duty is assigned them, they will relieve the volunteers who have so patriotically, and patiently sustained San Antonio since its surrender; for it appears more difficult to get men to garrison that place than it was to raise them to reduce it.

Schr. Julius Caesar. Cargo merchandise.

The steamboat Laura, on her way up the Brazos was sunk on the 14th inst. at Jones' Rapids, 20 miles below this place. The boat had on the previous evening, passed over the rapids and laid to for the night—on starting

understand the boat took a shear and went broad side on the rocks and the consequence was, she filled with water. The cargo was getting out with all possible despatch, and it is hoped will not be wholly lost. Messrs. McKinney and Williams, who are informed, sustained great loss in cargo, as well as the boat. And we deeply lament the misfortune of these gentlemen in losing two valuable vessels since the commencement of the war—the San Felipe was a good vessel, and had rendered much service, as well as the steam boat Laura, which has been busily engaged for some months in towing vessels &c.

The following is a true statement of the returns of the election holden on the 1st. inst for the purpose of electing three delegates to represent the Municipality of Austin, in the Convention, which is to assemble at Washington on the first day of March next.

McLin Bracy,
Wyly Martin,
T. H. Borden,
J. W. Kenney,
P. C. Jack,
C. B. Stewart,
Thomas Barnett,
Randall Jones,

San Felipe	73	86	26	50	24	23	00	00
Kuykendals	10	9	8	3	7	8	5	3
R. Jones	17	16	6	2	6	6	16	00
H. Jones	10	10	00	00	00	1	10	1
J. Berry's	22	23	11	00	2	3	14	3
Caney Creek	00	00	29	00	29	26	00	2
B. Daughtry's	13	13	00	13	00	00	00	00
Total	145	157	80	68	68	67	45	9

By the above it will be seen that Thomas Barnett, Randall Jones & C. B. Stewart are duly elected.

JOSEPH BAKER.

Municipal Judge.

San Felipe de Austin, Feb. 10th 1836.

COPY

OF A LETTER TO COL. D. C. BARRETT.

New Orleans, Jan. 17, 1836.

Dear Sir,

Texas stands high all over this country. We have effected a loan for two hundred thousand dollars and expect to procure another for 40 or 50,000. The enclosed contract contains the terms of the first loan, it will no doubt be ratified by the Convention as stipulated. The credit and prospects of the country will be totally ruined if it is not. The last news from Vera Cruz & Tampico is, that the Federal Party had united with Santa Anna against Texas. This leaves us but one course, which is an absolute Declaration of Independence. Such a measure is expected and called for by the people of the United States, from one end of this union to the other. We could not have obtained the loan here except on the firm belief by the lenders that a Declaration of Independence would be made in March next by the Convention.

The negotiation that is now pending for another loan has been embarrassed by a rumor that there has been a mob at San Felipe to destroy the Government, and restore the old state of things under Conchilla & Texas. I do not believe there has been any such thing. Texas must be united and not to be divided and in harmony and never recede one inch. It may perhaps be necessary to stop

and rest a while on the way, but never to retrace our political march. It must be forward. The country has rested a short time under the declaration of 7th. November, in order to look around and gain a little more strength and a little more information as to the road yet to be travelled over—and we are now ready for another move & a final one. Whatever difference of opinion there may have been as to the time for this move, I hope there will be none now. (The whole nation of all parties are against us; they have left us but one—INDEPENDENCE—It is now necessary as a measure of self defence. The United States as a people are ready to sustain it—we shall sink in their estimation if we do not adopt it.)

My health is greatly improved—I wish it had been as good in Texas—I should then have been more active and followed my own impulses and judgment, both of which are sufficiently indicated by my communications of 30th November, 2nd December and letter to you about that time.

I shall try to be at home by the first week in March and preach Independence.

Yours respectfully,

S. F. AUSTIN.

The chairman of the committee on Finance, with pleasure, announce to the public that he has in his possession a certificate, from John Childress, a gentleman from Nashville Tennessee, stating, that he has delivered to the late Governor Henry Smith, a draft for five thousand dollars, presented by H. R. W. Hill, of Nashville Tennessee, to the acting authorities of Texas, which said draft, he says, is drawn by said Hill, on N. & J. Dick & Co., and is payable six months after sight.

He would express his gratitude, and as he believes that of the citizens of Texas, to our kind friends of the United States of the North, in so timely sending to our help such aid & presumes, that the late Governor Smith, will not withhold any prompt exertion on his part, to effect the object of the benevolent donor, through the medium of the Treasurer, who is the proper officer of the Government.

WYAT HANKS,—Chr'n.

Jan, 24th, 1836.

MILITIA.

For the purpose of organizing the militia within the Municipality of Austin as speedily as possible, the following arrangements are made viz:—The municipality is for the present divided into 5 company districts, as follows:

1st. All that part of the Municipality lying east of the Brazos river shall form District no 1.

2nd. All that part of the Municipality lying west of the Brazos and below a line extending in a direct course from the S. E. corner of Juan Delgado's league on the said river, to the east boundary of the Municipality of Colorado, crossing the San Bernardo at the point where the Matagorda road crosses said stream, shall form District no 2.

3rd. All that part of the Municipality lying between the line last described and a line extending in a direct course from the mouth of Mill Creek so as to include Lynch's settlement, to the eastern boundary of the

municipality of Colorado shall form district no 3.

4th. All that part of the Municipality lying North of the last described line and east of the eastern branch of Mill Creek shall form district no 4.

5th. All that part of the municipality lying North of district no 3 and West of district no 4 shall form district no 5.

The following persons are appointed to superintend the organization of the militia in the several company districts viz:

For district No 1, J. PERRY,
2, D. RANDON,
3, J. H. MONEY,
4, J. W. KINNEY,
5, JOAN YORK.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MANAGERS.

1st. You will immediately, on the receipt of this, proceed to advertise an election to be held at some convenient place within your company district, for one captain, one 1st Lieutenant and one 2nd Lieutenant.

2nd. You will give four days notice of the election and endeavor to have every person notified of the time in order that all may vote.

3rd. You will proclaim publicly, on the closing of the polls, who are elected, & send to me the returns of the election so that they may be handed over to the Governor for commissions.

4th. You will direct the capt. when elected, to enroll forthwith upon his muster list, the name of every male in his district, between the ages of 16 & 50 for military duty.

5th. You will direct the captain, so soon as he shall have enrolled the names, to warn them by means of his sergeants or corporals, to meet at some central place in his district, which he shall designate, for the purpose of mustering. And it is requested that he cause them to meet as soon as possible in order that the situation of his company may be known.

6th. When they meet for mustering, the captain will inquire of every man the number of guns he may have, and note down the same in writing, and also state whether they are rifles, short guns, or muskets, and also whether they are or not fit for service.

7th. The captain will also inquire of each man what amount of powder and lead he has, which he will also note down in writing.

8th. He will report also those who have no guns, or ammunitions, in order that they might be supplied.

9th. The prospect of the invasion of our country is so great, that an immediate organization of the militia is necessary; and I hope you will not fail strictly to attend to and execute this order. The very safety of the country is involved in the measure, and a heavy responsibility devolves on you. If you promptly execute this order, you will then have done your duty, and will be entitled to the thanks of the whole country. I, therefore, request that you will lose no time in carrying it into execution.

San Felipe de Austin, Feb. 17, 1836.

JOSEPH BAKER,

Municipal Judge.

PUBLIC MEETING AT NASHVILLE.

NOVEMBER 17, 1835.

In pursuance of a call made by the public journals of this city, a very large public meeting of the citizens of Nashville and Davidson county, was held at the court house, for the purpose of adopting suitable measures for the assistance of their fellow-citizens, in the province of Texas. George C. Childress, Esq., was called unanimously to the chair, and Wm. K. Hill, appointed secretary.

The chairman explained the object of the meeting, and most eloquently portrayed the condition of our friends and countrymen, who are there battling for all that freemen hold most dear, against the grasping ambition of Mexico's despot and his hireling slaves.

After which, C. H. Saunders, Esq., submitted the following preamble and resolutions, which, upon the question being put to the meeting, were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, the citizens of the United States who have emigrated to the province of Texas, and settled therein under the pledged faith of the Mexican government, that they should continue in the enjoyment of constitutional liberty and republican government, are now engaged in a conflict with a military dictator, who is endeavoring to deprive them of these important rights and privileges:

And *whereas* we, the citizens of Nashville and Davidson county, in public meeting assembled, cannot view such a contest with indifference, especially when our late countrymen, and in some instances friends and acquaintances are engaged in it:

Therefore be it resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the people of Texas, in their just struggle for constitutional liberty and republican government, and will, as individuals, afford them all the countenance and assistance in our power.

Resolved, That Thomas J. Read, John L. Brown, L. L. Loving, and John Estell be appointed a committee to receive such funds as may be hereafter contributed in furtherance of the cause: that they make a record of the amount received, and of the names of the persons contributing; and communicate the same to the chairman of the committee of correspondence.

Resolved, That C. H. Saunders, S. Nye, W. H. Hunt, Q. D. Gibbs, and F. P. Wood be appointed to receive the names of such persons as may be disposed to volunteer: to afford them the requisite information on the subject, and to correspond with the chairman of this meeting, when he shall have reached Texas, and with the provisional government about to be organized in that country.

Resolved, That the same committee be instructed to correspond with other committees that may be appointed in this state, to act upon this subject; and be requested to urge a rendezvous of volunteers at Nashville, or some other point that may be agreed upon, as soon as practicable.

Resolved, That the chairman and secretary be appointed to frame an address, on behalf of this meeting, to the enterprising young men of the United States who may feel disposed to volunteer in the cause of freedom.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this

meeting be published in the several papers of this city, and that the editors of all the papers in the southern and western states be requested to publish them, and that they be communicated by the secretary to the several committees of public safety, and to the provisional government of Texas.

After the reading and adoption of the resolutions, the meeting was addressed in a feeling and spirited manner, by Dr. John Shelby, H. R. W. Hill, Andrew Hays, Jacob Cholwell, and Thomas J. Read, Esqrs. Very liberal contributions in money were made by several individuals; and a number of young gentlemen pledged themselves to proceed forthwith to the country, and volunteer in the cause. The utmost unanimity and enthusiasm prevailed on the occasion, and, in the opinion of all present, so spirited a public meeting was never before held in Nashville.

After the proceedings were through, upon motion of W. H. Hunt, Esq., the meeting adjourned over to meet again on Saturday evening, the 21st instant.

WM. K. HILL, Secretary.

ADDRESS

By the chairman and secretary, on behalf of the meeting, in conformity with the 5th resolution.

It is well known that the people of Texas are, at this time, engaged in a military conflict with the Mexican government. But the causes which forced this contest upon them are not perhaps equally well known to the people of the United States in general. We will, therefore, take the liberty briefly to state them. During the long period that Mexico was despotically ruled by the king of Spain, through the medium of a viceroy, the jealous and mistaken policy, characteristic of Spanish dominion, rigorously excluded the residence of foreigners from its territories: and as the Mexicans themselves are an unenterprising, pastoral, mining people, not agricultural in their habits, the vast and fertile plains of Texas remained, during the whole of this period, a slumbering wilderness, their very existence almost unknown, except to the savages who made it their hunting grounds, or the occasional traders who traversed it in the course of their adventurous journeys from the United States to the Mexican interior.

But about the year 1824, the people of Mexico, after the example of the United States, having thrown off the galling yoke of Spanish bondage, a more liberal and enlightened policy began to pervade their national council, and the advantages arising from the residence of enterprising and intelligent foreigners among them, became apparent to its rulers. It was particularly the policy of the government that the then wilderness of Texas should be settled and cultivated, and thus serve as a frontier protection to the interior provinces against savage incursions. Accordingly, a system of colonization laws was framed, by which foreigners, and particularly citizens of the United States, were not only allowed, but invited to settle in the country, and such inducements held out as had never before been known in any government. Having modelled their Constitution of 1824 after that of the United States, of which it is almost a literal copy, the inducements of

republican government, equal rights, liberal laws, and a splendid endowment of public lands, were offered to every emigrant. Great numbers availed themselves of the privilege; and braving the privations of the wilderness and the dangers of savage warfare, are now possessed of comfortable homes, and in some instances, large estates, in a country which is beginning to attract the attention of the world, on account of its great fertility, unequalled climate, and abundant production of the richest of all agricultural staples, cotton and sugar; a country which may, without exaggeration, be denominated "the garden spot of the world," the fairest portion of the sweet and sunny South, in which, more than any other, man is exempt from the original curse pronounced upon his race of "earning his bread by the sweat of his brow." The revolutions inseparable from all governments having a popular form and ignorant population, more than once occurred in the Mexican republic, during this period, but they disturbed not the repose and wellfare of Texas. Separated from the interior by the ocean, in one direction, and by an immense desert of several hundred miles extent, in the other, she flourished in peace, and increased in products and population, not caring, and hardly knowing whether *Iturbide*, *Bustamante*, or *Santa Anna* was, *de facto* or *de jure*, at the head of the federal government.

In the midst of this peace, repose, and unexampled prosperity, suddenly a political destroyer appears in the person of the president, Santa Anna, a soldier of fortune, who had risen to the first station in the republic by his devotion to those principles of constitutional liberty and republican government which he has now, at last betrayed and deserted, preferring to be classed on the page of history with the Cæsars and Bonapartes, rather than the Washingtons and Bolívars. With a rude and unceremonious hand, the president Santa Anna, leagued with the priests, those eternal enemies of liberty and human rights in every age and country, has prostrated Mexican liberty and the Mexican Constitution, and, under the never failing pretence of tyrants, "the good of the people," has abolished all the rights of the states, annihilated the very existence of the state legislatures, established a central, consolidated, military government, and now offers to our free countrymen in Texas, the cruel alternative, either to abandon their homes and estates, earned by so many privations, or to submit to the most intolerable of all tyrannies, the combined despotism of the sword and the priesthood. Thus have they been forced into a contest for the preservation of every principle worth maintaining, and driven to a third alternative, not contemplated by the priests and the usurper, war, defiance, revolution, the last and solemn appeal of the outraged nations from the decisions of their tyrants to the God of battles. Their cause is the universal cause of man. Their object the enjoyment of that constitutional liberty and republican government which the United States, by its example and influence, has morally guaranteed to all nations. And shall they in this vital struggle, in the common cause of mankind, receive no countenance, encouragement, sympathy, or assist-

ance. The government of the United States, as a government, is prohibited by the laws and policy of nations, from interfering in the internal conflicts of a foreign country, whatever be the merits of the controversy. If, therefore, they are to receive any assistance from the people of the United States, it must be from them as *individuals*. It is natural that the people of Texas should turn their eyes towards this country in their hour of trial and danger. Not more natural is it for the heart of the fond and indulged child to revert, when his fear cometh, to those parents whom he then, if never before, feels to have been his best friends, and that home in which he has been reared in safety and comfort, from infancy to manhood. Such an appeal has been made by the citizens of Texas to the people of the United States, their friends, relations and countrymen. They were Americans when they left us, and are still Americans in interest, feeling and principle. Already has their call been favorably responded to, both in the North and South of us. In the cities of New York and New Orleans, in Kentucky and in Alabama, public meetings have been held, encouraging and sympathizing resolutions have been passed, funds have been raised, and volunteers have gone forth to their assistance. And shall Tennessee, par excellence the land of chivalry and freedom, do nothing in this great and common cause of human rights and liberty? Yes, fellow citizens! we have at least raised our voice in behalf of our countrymen, and the important principles for which they are contending. Even this is of vast consequence; for nothing so much inspires communities, as well as individuals, with that moral courage and virtuous resolution, which almost ensures success in any cause, as to find their conduct approved and applauded. But let us do more. Let us open a subscription, and raise funds for the cause. Money is the sinews of war. Every dollar is now important, and will be tenfold refunded as soon as the contest is over. Let us, by our contributions and exertions, stir up an interest and a feeling on the subject, and thus induce enterprising and unemployed young men to proceed to their assistance.

But what, it may be asked, are the inducements to do so? To which it may be answered, every inducement that can be offered for men to engage in any human enterprise. In the first place, in the cause of struggling liberty, in any part of the world, however remote the age or distant the country, we cannot as freemen, as Americans, as Tennesseans, feel indifferent. Even yet we read with glowing feelings the defence of Greece by Leonidas, though ages have elapsed since the deathless Spartan, with his immortal band, braved the countless hosts of Persia. And in modern times we sympathize still more warmly with the same people, in their revolutionary struggle to force themselves from the galling yoke of Turkish bondage. Who has not felt interest in the efforts of Bolivar, the Washington of the South, and his countrymen, in behalf of constitutional liberty and independence? And what heart has not bled for the downfall of the gallant Poles in their heroic attempts to escape the iron despotism of Russia? And shall we feel no greater interest, and use no greater exertions in be-

half of our own countrymen, who have but yesterday left us, and are now engaged on our very borders, in the most justifiable of contests for all that is near and dear to man? Yes, fellow citizens of Tennessee and of the United States! the very object of the late large and enthusiastic public meeting in Nashville was to demonstrate the contrary, and to convince the world that wherever the rights of man are battled for, against military, and religious despotism, Americans can never look on with indifference.

But, if the inducements are contemplated in a more selfish light, solely with a view to personal advancement, still they will be found equally great and inviting. A young man who volunteers, with only his gun in his hand, will not fail to be received with that enthusiasm always felt by a people towards those who identify themselves with them at a dangerous crisis, and to be promoted and rewarded in proportion to his services and good behaviour. Neither will the people of Texas be without the means to carry on the war, and compensate those who may go to their assistance. Already arrangements are contemplated to negotiate for money, with Eastern or European capitalists; and there is every probability that when the proposition is backed by the requisite legislation, the faith of the Provisional Government, and the guarantee of the public domain, that funds will be procured amply sufficient to carry on the contest. But even if this calculation should fail, Texas will have the richest public domain in the world,—her fertile sugar and cotton lands,—from which millions can be raised, if necessary, to discharge the debts incurred in achieving her independence.

Moreover, every volunteer can have an opportunity of seeing and judging for himself of the soil, climate, and productions of Texas, and of determining on the propriety of casting his lot and seeking his fortunes in this Italy of America. Should he do so, his having identified himself with the fortunes of the country at such an important era in their history, cannot fail to give him a hold on the good feelings and gratitude of the people, which would assist him onward in his career to wealth and distinction. Or should he return to his native land, let him contemplate and emulate the example of Lafayette, at the youthful age of nineteen, volunteering his services in our cause, at the darkest period of our revolutionary history, gallantly fighting our battles until the contest is over; returning to his native land—living the admiration of the world, and the representative of liberal principles—revisiting us again in age—receiving a splendid national donation—and carried through all the states of the republic the nation's honored guest, in one round of triumph by a grateful people.

But what, it may be asked, is the prospect of success, and what shape will the government assume at the end of the contest. Referring to the latter part of the interrogatory first, it may be answered that Texas, will no doubt become a member of this Union, if the other states will admit her into the confederacy. If not, with a territory as large as France, reaching from the Sabine to the Rio del Norte—and capable of sustaining an equal population, it will become a splendid separate and independent

republic, its constitution modelled after that of the United States; its independence guaranteed by this government against all foreign powers, and its citizens placed upon the same footing with her own, as to commercial privileges. As to the prospect of success, there can be but one result to such a contest, SUCCESS and INDEPENDENCE: for

"Freedom's battle once begun,
Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft is always won."

If any man doubts the result, let him contemplate the national character of the Mexicans, a cowardly, treacherous, semi-civilized people, without enterprise, workmanship, or discipline; and a government without supplies, money, or confidence, and always on the brink of dissolution, from its own weakness and intestine divisions. Let him then consider the opposite character of the American settlers, brave, hardy, enterprising riflemen; let him view their locality, having an easy communication with the United States, both by land and by sea; but separated from the Mexican interior, on one side by an ocean, through which their invaders have not a navy sufficient to transport troops and supplies, and by an immense desert on the other, through which it would be impossible to subvert an army. Let him recollect that even if any considerable force should reach Texas, by either of these routes, that it would be impossible to sustain it at such a distance from their own resources, in a new and hostile country, whose principal means of defence would be to cut off supplies, harass in detail, and never give battle, except when sure of victory. Let him then calculate the thousands of brave volunteers that will be with them from the United States, and he will see that there can be but one result, SUCCESS AND INDEPENDENCE, and that the contest will only terminate when every hostile Mexican shall have been driven out of the limits of Texas, and the "star-spangled banner" of our beloved country, the bright beacon of hope to the politically benighted in every nation, shall wave in peaceful triumph from the Sabine to the Rio Bravo: nay, that indignant and successful freemen may not pause, even at that point, but march on until they place the eagles of freedom even on the glittering domes of Mexico, hurl the usurper from the throne of Montezuma, and make regenerated Mexico, (what it would now be but for priestcraft and tyranny) the fairest portion of the earth, "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

By order, and in behalf of the meeting,
GEORGE C. CHILDRESS, }
WILLIAM K. HILL, } *Commit.*

The captain of the brig Euphrates, that arrived here on Friday from New York, states, that near the hole-in-the-wall he fell in with a British sloop of war, which had captured the Mettawumpeg from New York, with two hundred volunteers for Texas; in consequence of their having landed at the island of Eleuthera, one of the Bahamas, and committed depredations on the property, &c. of the inhabitants, who consequently complained to the captain of the British navy, of the outrage done. The Mettawumpeg was to have been carried

of Providence; probably
th charge of piratical attempts,
or rather to be tried according to the Bri-
tish laws of the colonies.—N. O. Bee.

TO THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS.

COUNCIL HALL, SAN FELIPE DE
AUSTIN, FEB. 13, 1836.

War with its most terrific attendants and consequences is rolling its horrors upon us! The enemy with great force is within our borders;—and Texas sleeping amidst surrounding dangers. The arch enemy of Liberty—Santa Anna, prompted by vindictive fury, leads the onset,—death, violation and extermination are determined against us. The following letters speak a language not to be misunderstood and clearly show, the alarming situation of the country and the necessity for prompt and efficient action. If we would save our country from the threatened destruction, our wives and daughters from the vilest pollution, and our families and ourselves from general massacre, FREEMEN OF TEXAS—now is the hour!!—let no consideration prevent you from coming boldly forth TO THE RESCUE!—Our brethren from the United States are, by hundreds in the field, leading the van guard for our defence; and shall we look to others alone, for that protection from dangers so alarming? NO TEXIANS! shoulder your Rifles, join our PATRIOTIC FRIENDS, and by one united and well directed effort, teach the Tyrant of Mexico and his hirelings that the sons of the BRAVE PATRIOTS OF '76 are invincible in the cause of FREEDOM and the RIGHTS OF MAN.

D. C. BARRETT,—Chr'n.
J. D. CLEMENTS,
ALEX. THOMPSON,
G. A. PATILLO,
JOHN McMULLEN,
JOHN MALONE,
JOHN S. LANE.

SAN PATRICIO, FEB. 6TH, 1836.

DEAR SIR,

Don Placido Benavides has just arrived, & brings disagreeable intelligence. Gonzales' command is entirely dispersed, and twenty two men taken prisoners. Three hundred Cavalry and three hundred Infantry have arrived at Matamoras, which in addition to the Garrison makes the effective force now there 1000 men, and more are expected shortly. Cos and all his officers from Bejar are raising troops to march on Texas. One thousand men are already on the Rio Frio. One thousand more on the march near the Rio Grande destined for some point of Texas; and forces are gathering rapidly in all directions for the same object. It is believed that an attack is intended on Goliad and Bejar simultaneously.

Rodericus has broken his parole since 5 o'clock this evening and as I have but 18 effective men here and no horses, I could not pursue him.

The inhabitants of Tamaulipas are generally in favor of (1824,) but are so much oppressed by the military, that many of the principal men having been arrested they are completely fattened. Santa Anna caused a report to be set afloat that he was with the troops at Matamoras, but it is ascertained

that he is on the Rio Grande for the purpose of those I

Don Placido Benavides of the portance as other assured the troops hopes to while he of the Co received from the He has been within the town & corresponded with him.

The people of Tamaulipas as well as those of the Rio Grande complain much of Dimitt's Proclamation, and would have acted with more decision were it not for that act; but they fear it is now almost impossible; but are still anxious for the cause. The Cavalry are the choice troops from the interior, they are armed, every one, with lance musket, pistols and sword and Santa Anna has sworn to TAKE TEXAS OR LOSE MEXICO.

Doct. Grant has been out two days with thirty men. I feel very anxious about him. I intended to have sent you more wagons to-morrow morning early, and in fact had the oxen yoked to start before day-light but shall now await your further orders.

Cos is actually with Seizma and also Ugartchiers. They have 1000 spare horses and a large number of pack mules.

It is with regret, but I am absolutely obliged to give Doct. Hoit your horse to carry him with this.

Yours most sincerely,
ROBERT MORRIS.

P. S. To raise funds and provisions, Cos causes each man to give an inventory of all he possesses with valuation of each article on which he demands one per cent. every twenty days, he then sends two men to make the appraisement over, and if he finds that they make a return higher than the owners, he demands three per cent. in lieu of one; and each family has to furnish a fanega of corn also, every twenty days, and even causes the women to grind it, without respect to station. His soldiers have assassinated many of the most influential citizens, and the wives and daughters are prostituted—the whole country is given up to the troops to induce them forward.

R. M.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY J. W. ROBINSON,
AND GENERAL COUNCIL.

MISSION OF REFUGIO, FEB. 7,
10 o'clock, P. M.

I have to communicate to you, & through you to the people of Texas, the inclosed express just received from the advance Division of the volunteer army:—

You will readily discover the great difference between this information, and that contained in my report of the 3rd inst. The first was then supposed to be entitled to credit, and accordingly made the subject of a communication;—I cannot now question the correctness of the last,—Not the least doubt should any longer be entertained, by any friend of Texas, of the design of Santa Anna to overrun the country, and expel or exterminate every white man within its borders;—May I be permitted to ask of them in sober earnestness, "Why halt ye, between two opinions?" Your soil is again to be polluted by the foot steps of the hirelings of an unprincipled Despot!! Will the freemen of Texas calmly fold their arms and await, until the approach of that deadly enemy, compels them to protect their own lives and

to
ry-women, on Rio
expected for the
or chaste white women when
country women are prostituted,
ie sed soldiery, as an inducement to
push forward into the Colonies, where they
may find fairer game?

The question, would seem to be useless; but when I tell you, that among the rise of 400 men at, and near this post, I doubt if twenty-five citizens of Texas can be mustered in the ranks—nay, I am informed, whilst writing the above, that there is not half that number;—Does not this fact, bespeak an indifference, and criminal apathy, truly alarming? We calculate upon the service of our volunteer friends, to aid in the defence and protection of our soil—Do the citizens of Texas reflect for a moment, that these men, many of whom, have served since November last, have not received the first cents wages, and are now; nearly naked; and many of them bare-footed, or what is tantamount to it; could they hear the just complaints and taunting remarks in regard to the absence of the old settlers and owners of the soil, and total neglect in the officers of the Government; not providing them with even the necessities of life, this our main stay would not be so confidently relied on!! Will you allow me to recommend the issuing of general orders, to be sent by expresses to every part of Texas, commanding the civic militia, under their present organization, to turn out & march forthwith to the seat of war. At the same time call upon all volunteers to do the same, taking care, to apprise our friends in the U. S. of our true situation, that a sufficient inducement may be held out to draw them to our standard, in this hour of trial—It is generally believed in the United States, that the war, is over, and indeed our own citizens seem to have indulged the same hope,—We are now undeceived, and unless, a turn out in mass be made, and that speedily, the force now in the field cannot keep the invaders in check, long enough to prevent the fury of the war's being waged in the heart of the country, if ever Santa Anna crosses the Gaudaloupe with 5,000 men, we have to fight east of the Brazos, if not the Trinity! I feel certain that, even in that event, his army would inevitably perish or surrender. But, should we not prevent such a dreadful catastrophe, and rally to the rescue, every freeman of Texas!! Evince your determination to live free or perish in the ditch.

In order to provide for the wants of the men, appoint contractors, and have established on the different routes west, depots, for beef, cattle, salt &c., and such provisions as may be obtained, that the men may be pushed forward without delay, to such points as may be deemed most exposed. In the meantime, I would respectfully recommend such measures be taken, as to form a corps of reserve on Colorado, at or between Bastrop and Gonzales; and also the Navidad & La Baca, in order to protect the settlers, and cover the advance in case an enemy with a superior force, should attack them in their rear, and march forward calculating

much upon our weak state of defence, and our own inexperience, and which might be dispersed over the country already prostrate. It is useless to contravert the fact that our true strength and geographical situation is well known to Santa Anna.

This expedition against Texas, has long since been determined by Santa Anna, and Col. Almonte was sent to Texas, for the express purpose of ascertaining these facts, which you will see from his report, he faithfully executed. In order to meet all the exigencies, allow me to urge you, not to permit too many cavalry. But few horsemen, will be requisite on the west side of Gaudalupe, and experience has convinced me, that the service will not be promoted by having any number of them: and extensive frauds, practiced upon the government, in remunerating the owners for property never lost or destroyed in the service, will not unfrequently, sold several times, on private account.

FEBRUARY 8, 7 o'clock, A.M.
May I also urge the immediate necessity of causing suitable floating Bridges, or boats, at private pass ways, across all streams to the east of Gaudalupe, calculated to stop the retreat of our forces, should it be our unfortunate lot to be compelled to make one. This would at the same time secure the easy passage of our reinforcement, provisions, arms &c. &c. It cannot be attended to, too soon, and I doubt not, but the patriotic citizens, who have remained at home, will turn out readily, and perform the work.

I must also urge upon you, the absolute necessity of providing coarse clothing, shoes, &c. for the troops first in the field, and the forwarding forthwith, Powder, Lead &c. We have enough for the present force, for a short time, and the rise of 500 new muskets brought down by me from Brazos, which will be distributed to those capable of bearing arms and entering our ranks.

I have not yet heard from the Bar, of the arrival of Col. Wharton, but trust I may to day or to-morrow, and have pilots below, in order to bring them up. I have sent forward a reinforcement to San Patricio, to bring off the artillery and order a concentration of the troops at Goliad, and shall make such disposition of my forces as to sustain Bejar and that post—and keep up a communication with the colonies. In the mean time, I would recommend that some Government officer be sent to La Baca, to receive and forward stores &c. and that point be selected for the present, as our principal depot—I would also urge the immediate removal of all the artillery from Bejar, not requisite to the defence of that Post.

Such orders have already been issued to Col. Neil, or rather such recommendations, provided he could procure the necessary teams. I now feel authorized to give orders to that effect, and shall forward an express to him this day.

In conclusion, let me implore you to lose no time and spare no expense, in spreading these tidings throughout Texas—and ordering out the Militia *ah mis!*—spare us in God's name, from elections in camp—organize at home, and march forward in order, and good may result from them.

have barely time to say that an election, holden on yesterday for Col. and Lieut. and that myself and Mr. Ward, received nearly a unanimous vote—the returns have not yet been handed in or it should have been so.

Do let me hear from you often, and know what is doing for us—even the nothing it is best for our own safety and the ultimate security of the country, to know it at once, and provide for the exigencies, while we may.

Look well to our coast—now is the time to use our small navy, and that to advantage, and unless soon adroit, we may fear the worst.

In haste, I have the honor to subscribe myself, with sentiments of high consideration

Your obt. servt.

J. M. FANNIN Jr.

Col. Comd.

The Advisory Committee to the Executive appointed by the General Council to act in that capacity in the absence of a quorum of said council, have received with astonishment, the unpardonable and almost criminal indifference of the people of Texas, to comply with the Ordinances of the Provisional Government, for organizing the Militia of the country. Every inducement to this measure, which the threatening dangers from a numerous invading army, the necessity of self protection—the avoidance of the horrors and devastations of war within our own domestic circles have been urged; by the officers of the Government, who saw the approaching storm—but all in vain. The same apathy prevailed—and no appearance of alarm or even care for all that is dear on earth, has been manifested because we saw not the enemy in our streets, perpetrating the work of death, and extermination, over the fair lands of Texas. The enemy is now upon us, and must be expelled, or our country depopulated and destroyed.

The Committee therefore advise the enforcement of the Militia law, upon the following plan:

1st. That the Acting Governor appoint one Aid in each Municipality, who together with the Judge or Alcalde, shall forthwith obtain as correct a knowledge as possible of the individuals liable to Militia duty, by law, and shall forthwith organize them into companies agreeably to said law, and divide the same into three classes for actual service, each class to serve in succession three months, and forthwith report the same to the Acting Governor and Council.

2nd. With the view to meet the present alarming exigencies of the country, volunteers may be called; who shall be placed upon the first class, and if a sufficient number do not volunteer, to make one third part of all the Militia of each municipality, then a sufficient number shall be drafted to make the amount required; first from those who have not heretofore served in the volunteer army and been honorably discharged; and the organization afterwards to be completed.

The men thus volunteered or drafted, shall elect their own officers agreeably to the numbers from each Municipality, as provided by the Militia law—on failure or refusal to do so, the Governor's aid with the Judge or Alcalde shall appoint the proper number

officers and order them forthwith to march for Gonzales or Victoria, as may be most convenient to report to the proper officer stationed at that place, and to be under the proper military officers of the Government during their term of service.

Fourth. No allowance will be made by the Government for horses, except such as are necessary for packing provisions, tents & ammunitions.

Fifth. Any one drafted on failing to march shall forthwith at his own expense employ a substitute and if he fail to do so, the Governor's aid shall employ one for him, for which his property shall be charged by summary process and sold to a sufficient amount to pay said substitute agreeably to the provisions of the law together with all costs and charges.

Sixth. It shall be the duty of the several aids to ascertain the quantity of ammunitions and provisions, within such municipality and at such points as may be necessary for the supply of troops, to fix a depot, and purchase upon the credit of the Government, such quantity as may be needed to be issued on proper orders and report the same to the Acting Governor.

And the governor's aids will also attend to having some proper conveniences for crossing troops over the different rivers within their respective municipalities, and procure and keep horses for the purpose of sending expresses.

D. C. BARRETT, Chm.

J. D. CLEMENTS,

ALEX. THOMSON, } Advisory Com.

G. A. PATILLO, }

Approved Feb. 13th 1836, and an Aid-de-camp appointed in each municipality to organize and concentrate volunteers, and drafted militia forthwith on the western frontier of Texas, to meet and beat back the Gothic and barbarous enemy.

JAMES W. ROBINSON,

Acting Governor.

EXTRACT

Of a letter to the editors of the Telegraph and Texas Register, dated 10th inst.

Messrs. BAKER & BORDERS, GENTLEMEN.—Enclosed you will receive a five dollar note on the Bank of the United States, which came enclosed to general Austin, from H. Meigs, esq. of the city of New York, with the following remarks: "I was much pleased to receive yesterday the first number of the San Felipe de Austin Telegraph. Boys seldom read before they run; your youthful Texas, the new come and welcome fair republic, now reads; and will have a glorious and happy run."

Enclose a \$5 banknote for the paper. I am proud to be one of its first subscribers. This paper may easily do more for your cause than a park of artillery. May God prosper your cause. Yours truly, H. MEIGS.

NOTICE

IS hereby given that the CUSTOM HOUSE for the despatch of business connected with the Port of Copano, is established at the town of "Mission del Refugio."

San Antonio de Bexar, Jan. 31 1836.

EDWARD GRITTEN,

Collector.

I HAVE appointed my brother-in-law, James F. Perry, my sole general agent to attend to all my business during my absence from Texas. S. F. AUSTIN.
dec 26 tf

THE UNDERSIGNED, having been appointed collector of public dues on land for the Department of Brazos, gives notice that he is now ready to receive payment of all installments due the state on lands, agreeably to the ordinance and decree passed by the General Council on the 30th of December, 1835, and published in No. 11 of this paper.

G. BORDEN, Jr.
San Felipe de Austin, Jan. 12, 1836.

DURING my absence, I have appointed Gail Borden, jr. my special agent to collect any debts due me, and receipt for the same. S. F. AUSTIN.
dec 26 tf

HAVING been appointed by the Honorable George Ewing executor of the succession of Wm. Styles dec., I hereby notify all persons indebted to said succession, to make payment, and all those having claims against said estate will present the same within the time prescribed by law.

HENRY JONES.

jan 16 3t

NOTICE.

THE SUBSCRIBER respectfully informs the public that he has opened his house on Mill Creek, for the entertainment of travellers. His house will all times be furnished with the best fare the country affords, and his stable with corn and fodder for horses. WILLIAM PETTUS.
tf

TAKEN UP by the subscriber, a small bay horse, with split ears, a star in his forehead; about seven years old, with one hind foot white. The owner can have him by calling on the subscriber, and paying expenses.

JOSEPH GREEN
East side of Brazos.

jan 16-3t

LAW NOTICE.

THE PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing between Travis & Nibbs, has been dissolved by limitation. The unfinished business entrusted to them will be attended to by Travis & Starr.

W. B. Travis and Franklin J. Starr have associated themselves in the practice of the law, and will attend to business in the courts of San Felipe, Washington, and the adjoining municipalities. One or both of them will be constantly found at their office in San Felipe.

January 20, 1836.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the post-office law recently passed by the General Council of Texas, now in session, has made it discretionary with the post master general whether to cause a mail to be carried to each municipality or not; and believing that, at this momentous crisis in the affairs of our country, all are alike interested in having facilities of communication established throughout the country, I will therefore receive sealed proposals at my office in San Felipe de Austin, until the 15th day of February next, for carrying the Texas mail on the following routes, viz.:

No. 7. From Jefferson, by Chambersburg and Zavala, to San Augustin, 122 miles, once in two weeks.

To leave Jefferson on Thursday, at 7 o'clock, A. M., and arrive at San Augustin the following Saturday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

To leave San Augustin on Sunday, at 7 o'clock, A. M., and arrive at Jefferson on Tuesday following, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

No. 8. From Whiteside's, by Tenoxtitlan and New Nashville to Viesca, eighty-five miles, once in two weeks.

To leave Viesca on Friday, at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Whiteside's the next Sunday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

No. 9. From San Felipe, by Mercer's and Texana to Victoria, one hundred miles, once in two weeks.

To leave San Felipe every other Monday at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Victoria the next Wednesday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

To leave Victoria every other Thursday, at 7 o'clock A. M. and arrive at San Felipe the next Saturday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

No. 10. From Victoria, by Goliad and Refugio, to San Patricio, one hundred miles, once in two weeks.

To leave Victoria every other Thursday, at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at San Patricio the next Saturday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

To leave San Patricio every other Sunday, at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Victoria the next Tuesday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

No. 11. From San Felipe, by Phillips's and Cook's Island, to Matagorda, ninety miles, weekly.

To leave San Felipe every Sunday at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Matagorda every Wednesday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

To leave Matagorda every Thursday at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at San Felipe the next Saturday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

No. 12. From San Felipe by Wade's, Gotier's, Eblin's, and Burleson's, to Mina, ninety miles, once in two weeks.

To leave San Felipe every other Monday, at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Mina the next Wednesday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

To leave Mina every other Thursday, at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at San Felipe the next Saturday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

No. 13. From San Felipe by Berson's and Daniel's, to Gonzales, ninety miles, once in two weeks.

To leave San Felipe every other Monday, at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Gonzales the next Wednesday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

To leave Gonzales on Thursday the day after the arrival of the mail from San Felipe, and arrive at the latter place next Saturday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

No. 14. From Gonzales, by Sandie's and

Cibola, to Bejar, seventy-six miles, once in two weeks.

To leave Gonzales every other Thursday, at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Bejar the next Saturday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

To leave Bejar every other Sunday, at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Gonzales the next Tuesday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

No. 15. From Bejar to Goliad, ninety miles, once in two weeks.

To leave Bejar every other Sunday at 7 o'clock, A. M. and arrive at Goliad the next Tuesday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

To leave Goliad every other Friday next following the arrival of the mail from Bejar, and arrive at the latter place the next Sunday, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

NOTE.—It is requested that the bidders will be at the General Post Office in person, or by some authorized agent, on the 16th day of February next, for the purpose of entering into bond with approved security, for the faithful performance of their contracts. As it is not improbable that there may be some difference between the actual distances and those stated in the foregoing advertisement, it is expected that bidders will inform themselves, and act accordingly. By the Post Office law, it will be seen, that the Postmaster General has a right to make such changes and alterations on any mail route under contract, as he may think necessary; and if by such change the distance is increased or lessened, a corresponding change will be made in the contractor's pay.

JOHN R. JONES,

Postmaster General.

FORM FOR BIDDERS.

SIR,

I propose to carry the Texas Mail (weekly, or once in two weeks, as the case may be,) on route No. _____ from _____ to _____

_____ for one year, for the sum of _____ dollars.

Superscribed,

Proposals for carrying the Mail on route No. _____

To JOHN R. JONES,

Postmaster General,
San Felipe.

San Felipe de Austin, December 26, 1835.
tf.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY
JOSEPH BAKER & BORDENS.
SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

FIVE DOLLARS per annum, if paid in advance.
SIX DOLLARS per annum, if paid at the expiration of six months; and
SEVEN DOLLARS per annum, if not paid until the end of the year.

No subscription will be received for a less term than six months, and no subscription will be discontinued until the expiration of the term subscribed for, unless at the option of the proprietors.

Subscribers not residing within the limits of Texas, are required to pay in advance.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

Advertisements occupying eight lines or less, One Dollar for the first, and Fifty Cents for each subsequent insertion. Longer advertisements in the same proportion.

TELEGRAPH, AND TEXAS REGISTER.

VOL. I.

San Felipe de Austin, Saturday, February 27, 1836.

NO. 17.

POETRY.

NEW SONG.

Tune: *Moll Roone.*

Oh Texas! thou land of the freemen, arise,
Seize the lightning that illuminate the vault of the skies,
Grasp the weapons of war; for thy valour is known,
And the tyrant Santa Ana will soon be overthrown.

Go forth, like a flame in the forest afar;
Sound the triumph of thy triumph from liberty's car:
Break the chains of oppression: be tyranny hurled:
And the glory shall wake up the gloom of the world.

Not long shall the sceptre of despotism wave
O'er the wish of the world, and the blades of the brave.
Not long shall the despot and priesthood unite,
To extinguish the lamp of thy liberty's light.

Oh Texas! arise in the strength of thy might:
Go forth, in thy power, to the field and the fight.
Let a sense of thy wrongs nerve the arm of the brave;
And the march of the tyrant shall be to the grave.

Oh! soon may thy sages in council agree,
And proclaim to the world that thy land shall be free.
Then millions unborn shall rejoice in the cause
That gave Texas liberty, freedom, and laws.

Oh! hasten the hour when the flame shall retire,
And the deeds of thy sons all the world shall admire:
When the despot shall fall, and when tyranny hurled,
The banner of freedom shall wave to the world.

BARD OF THE YEGUA.

COMMUNICATION.

SHALL WE DECLARE FOR INDEPENDENCE?

Shall we declare for independence? is a question now upon every tongue; the idle and the thinking, the patriot and the speculator. The subject is near every heart that is capable of feeling, and involves in its decision the future destiny of Texas. Our representatives are about to assemble; we have invested them with power to determine this important query, and should now, by free discussion, if possible, enlighten their path.

We may rejoice that, at this crisis, we are not entirely on untrodden ground. We have a bright example before us, in the United States; and by observing the similarity of our situation, we may more correctly judge of the propriety of our course. Jefferson says, "All governments are instituted for the benefit of the governed; and when they become subversive of these ends, it is the duty of the people to alter or abolish them." The right to revolutionize cannot be brought in question, at this enlightened day; and the right to establish such government as the people may prefer, is equally clear and acknowledged. The only question to determine then is, whether the act would be consistent with propriety, and result in the benefit of the people. We may more correctly determine this point, by comparing our situation with that

of the United States, during the contest of 1776. None will deny the propriety of their course; and as we have that standard before us, it may be profitable to appeal to it.

In the first place, have the causes which led to the separation, been as aggravated with the people of Texas as with the patriots of the revolution. They complained of imposing an unjust tax, of stationing armed troops amongst them, in time of peace, of carrying citizens out of the country for trial, &c. We complain of their imposing heavy duties upon us, and expending none of the revenue within our borders; of not only harboring armed troops amongst us, in time of peace, but of sending them with *hobbles*, to literally confine our people in disgraceful fetters, or destroy their lives; of not only claiming the principle of trying our citizens out of the country, but of actually imprisoning a distinguished individual, for fictitious offences, without trial or jury, even while he was at their court, in the city of Mexico, petitioning for a redress of wrongs already inflicted; thus not only violating the laws of all civilized nations, but casting a deliberate insult upon the people of Texas; of first inviting us to the country, to endure the dangers and privations of pioneers of a savage and wilderness land, and then passing laws prohibiting the immigration of "natives of the United States of the North; but none others;" thus separating relatives and friends that had wished to dwell together; and finally, of destroying the constitution under which we lived, and claiming our obedience to a despotic military government. These are but a few of the wrongs we have endured; yet which of the catalogues of tyrannical acts most loudly calls for redress and separation from the oppressors? If the king of Great Britain, who had been guilty of these acts of tyranny, was "unworthy to be the ruler of a free people," what shall we say of the Mexican government? We will disclaim it forever, if we have not degenerated, and grown patient under wrongs, the least of which would have excited the patriotic indignation of our fathers.

But, say some, these acts of oppression have not *all* been inflicted by the government of the constitution of 1824; and although they should induce us to take up arms against Santa Ana, they should not cause us to declare ourselves independent of the Mexican nation. It is true, not *all* our wrongs have been inflicted under the constitution; yet enough has been suffered to prove that we cannot live as *freemen* under any government where Mexican influence shall preponderate. Besides, it would be vain to follow the different forms of government, in order to find the resting place of the responsibility of their acts. It

changes as often as the colors of theameleon, and (as we are but about one hundredth part of the population of the confederacy) without our power to control or influence its changes. It is of but little importance to *us* what they call themselves, *republicans* or *monarchists*, when we are withering under their misrule. It is enough to know that our sufferings have been riveted upon us in either name, and will continue so long as we remain a part of their nation.

But, to continue the comparison, if we have suffered deeper wrongs, is there any stronger reason why we should more patiently endure them? Are we more strongly united to them by ties of kindred, blood, language and institutions, a recollection of greater services rendered, or a greater affection and reverence for the standing of the nation to which we are attached? They separated themselves from a people that was "bone of their bone, and flesh of their flesh," and claiming the endearing title of *parent*; a people whose institutions were knitted to them by the strongest ties of affinity. We separate from a people one half of whom are the most deprived of the different races of Indians, different in color, pursuits and character; and *all* of whom are divided from us by the insurmountable barrier which nature and refined taste have thrown between us—a people whose inert and idle habits, general ignorance and superstition, prevents the possibility of our ever mingling in the same harmonious family; and if possible, could only be done by self-degradation. They separated themselves from a people that claimed to have assisted and fostered them, in the difficulties and hardships incident to settling a new country. We separate ourselves from a people who, after granting us land, in a savage country, (that they had not the hardihood to inhabit) that we might protect them from the warlike Indians, while they remained secure in their little villages, not only neglected us, but drained our little resources, and threw every obstacle in the way of our advancement and prosperity. They separated themselves from the most glorious, great, and let me add, at that time, the most free nation upon the face of the earth. We separate ourselves from one characterized by the opposite of *all* these qualities; not sufficiently stable to assume a character, and consistent, in her different convulsions, only in treachery, tyranny and imbecility.

There is no reason then that influenced the patriots of 1776, that does not, with tenfold force, apply to us; and the only remaining consideration would be, whether we have an equal prospect of success. They would have disdained this enquiry, and convinced of the justice of their quarrel, would have been willing to "leave the

consequences to God," preferring even death to a life of servitude. But even in this ground, it can be proven that a declaration of independence is now the only alternative left us.

Suppose we refuse to declare for independence, and continue the contest for the re-establishment of the constitution of 1824, what will be the result? The constitution is not now acknowledged by any part of the Mexican government, but ourselves; and as we are in a state of revolution, it is not even in existence with us. All Mexico has quietly fallen into the arms of the tyrant, and is now feeding his armies, and supporting with men and means his unholy war against Texas. They have acknowledged his power; and rest contented in their fetters, as under a government most natural and congenial to them. Shall then Texas, with one hundredth part of the population of the whole country, undertake the Herculean task of fighting their battles, and revolutionizing all Mexico, when they themselves are contented with slavery, if not capable of freedom. The only return for our chivalry would be the lauses of our deceitful friends, combined with the enemy against us.

It is said our declaring for independence would unite all Mexico against us. It will give us ten strong friends, where it makes us one imbecile enemy. Is not Mexico already united against us? At this moment, she is as united as she has been for the last fifty years. The few that are contending against Santa Anna, are not contending for Texas. It is with them such a contest as fills every page of Mexican history: mercenary and hired soldiers, fighting for the advancement of rival chiefs. I am confident a declaration of independence would give us strength, even with Mexicans: many sincere friends of liberty, who would fear to involve themselves in so doubtful a controversy as revolutionizing Mexico, would gladly assist in establishing a government that would promise to be permanent and prosperous.

There is one consideration, that alone ought to be final, in influencing the mind of every patriot in favor of independence. It is that our friends from the United States, who now almost compose our army, and have assisted in gaining our proudest laurels, have, in anticipation of that event alone, offered their services and lives in our defence. Our friends in the United States are looking upon us with fraternal affection: their arm is already extended, clothed with power terrible to tyrants. Let us not deceive them, or their countenance will be withdrawn, and we will be left, our wives and children, to the mercy of Mexicans. If we put the contest on a footing worthy of their assistance, by declaring for independence, "a thousand friends will leap from their seabords," and ten thousand voices answer our appeal for assistance. The blood and treasures of citizens of the United States will flow freely out, when offered in the cause of liberty and independence; but never to establish a government founded on priestcraft and superstition; a government where, it is true, we may send representatives, but only that they, as Ireland in the parliament of Great Britain,

may be insulted, by witnessing wrongs without the power to prevent them.

It is to be hoped our members in the convention will deliberate deeply upon this important subject; and it is believed they will find by one course, that the tide of emigration will be turned to Texas, with unexhausted strength; and that a few years will reveal her destiny more glorious than the most sanguine anticipate: and by the other, that her land will be deserted by her best citizens, her wide prairies and fair fields still remain pressed only by the foot of the wolf, and the scarcely less savage Indian, and her government settled down to a confirmed despotism.

JEFFERSON.

TELEGRAPH.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1836.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

We lay this week, before our readers the substance of the information brought by Mr. Pantallion and Mr. Smith, relative to the movements of general Santa Anna. Of the correctness of this information, not the least doubt can be entertained; and the people of Texas must arouse from lethargy, and prepare to encounter the enemy of liberty, the invader of their country; and they have to encounter him with a determination to "conquer or die."

Mr. Pantallion is direct from Matamoros, and brings intelligence that one thousand troops had arrived at that place, and were expecting shortly to be joined by others; and that early in March, they would move forward to Texas, for the purpose of attacking Goliad.

He also states that about one thousand men, under the command of generals Filisola and Cos, are stationed on the Rio Grande, awaiting the arrival of five hundred more troops; after which they intend to move on to Texas, for the purpose of attacking Bejar.

He further states that the army under the immediate command of Santa Anna, consisting of about six thousand men, commenced their march from Saltillo to Monclova, on the 27th ult.; and that Santa Anna himself left, with the last division, on the first inst. His plan of operations, as communicated to Mr. Pantallion by intelligent friends of Texas in Matamoros, was to push at once for the heart of Texas, with that part of the army under his immediate command, while the other two divisions make a simultaneous attack on Bejar and Goliad. Santa Anna, it is said, has been furnished by the clergy with one million of dollars, which has greatly assisted him in preparing for the expedition; so that he is now well provided, and comes with a train of thirty pieces of artillery, swearing to "conquer Texas or lose Mexico."

Mr. Smith, who was the active and faithful pilot of the American army at Bejar, has been within a few miles of Rio Grande, and corroborates the information of Mr. Pantallion. He says the army on the Rio Grande is busily engaged in mounting cannons, and preparing for the campaign; and that in March, we may expect to be invaded by the whole Mexican force.

Citizens of Texas, the hour is fast approaching when your valor and patriotism are again to be tested. The friends of freedom will now ascertain whether you are deserving their sympathy and assistance. Show that they have not been deceived; convince them that their exertions in your favor have not been directed towards an unworthy object. The whole force of Texas will be requisite to ward off the blow; and Texas and freedom demand that "every man do his duty."

An organization of the militia has been ordered, and we most fervently hope the people will attend to it. We would advise every company to commence preparing themselves with every thing necessary for the campaign. Let them mould bullets, procure powder, make cartridges, put their guns in order, and in short, do every thing

which can be done within the time. Nothing can save Texas, but prompt and united action. Without it, all is lost; but with it, victory will attend our arms; and freedom will ride triumphantly over its enemies. A great responsibility rests upon every man; and surely no one can be indifferent to the call of his country, at a time like the present.

We understand that some are not willing, under the present provisional government, to do any duty. But shall we fold up our arms, when the enemy is upon us? That our government is bad, all must acknowledge; and none will deny. But, considering all things, what country ever had a better, under the same circumstances? Had not the thirteen British colonies been for many years previous to their revolution, in quiet subordination under a well organized government? And was it not their condition after the commencement of hostilities with the mother country? The public credit was not so good as

ours. Texas has been many years without any government; and ought we to expect a perfect model at once? We trust that the little parings and discord, which are natural consequences arising more from our infant state, than from intention on the part of individuals or the government, will not be attributed to us as a proof that Texas does not possess virtue, honesty and talents sufficient to govern herself. We earnestly look to the meeting of the convention, which will, we hope, employ itself in putting our country in a state of preparation and defence. Let us, in the mean time, prepare ourselves to obey the first order which may emanate from our chosen representatives. One day in March, with the loss of a drop of blood, may be worth a month in May, with the loss of hundreds of lives. Will our farmers longer talk of heavy crops of cotton, when they ought to bestow what time they can spare to the raising of corn? Should the merchants think of advantages in trade, when in less than six months, perhaps, they may be stripped of all, and deprived of their rights, by the Mexicans and a foe still more formidable? Indeed we would recommend the cessation of all business, the operation of which would, in any way, retard our citizens from the prosecution of the war, and the establishing of a government of our choice. Bread must be had; and we are glad to learn that many of the farmers in the upper country have abandoned the idea of raising cotton this year, although so profitable. We pray God to bless their labors in raising subsistence for our children and our army.

A party of the wild Indians have again committed outrages upon our western frontier. Some few days since, Mr. Hibbins and his brother-in-law were killed, on the head waters of the Nacodad. We understand that he was travelling home, with his family, (wife and two children) who had been on a visit to the United States. Mrs. Hibbins, with her children, was taken prisoner; and her youngest proving troublesome to the Indians, they put an end to its existence, by dashing its head against a tree. After travelling some distance up the Colorado river Mrs. Hibbins effected her escape, and travelled into the upper settlements. The company of rangers stationed in that part of the country, pursued the Indians, overtook them, killed their chief, wounded some, rescued the captive child, took several horses and mules, and dispersed the gang. Two of the rangers were slightly wounded.

We learn, however, that these or other Indians have since been into the settlements, and stolen horses. Mr. Hibbins had for some years past lived on the Guadalupe; and during the siege of Bejar, had furnished the army with many beef cattle.

We learn that our agents in the U. S. have succeeded in contracting two loans, one of fifty thousand and the other of twenty thousand dollars, in addition to the two hundred and fifty thousand dollars first contracted for.

We understand that Gen'l. Houston and some other persons, were about to propose a treaty with our red brethren in the north eastern part of Texas. This step is as it should be, and we confidently rely on a favorable result; and believe that the commission who effect a permanent and good understanding with those Indians, will do to their country a service deserving the gratitude of every citizen.

which the Mexican government would have nothing to hope from a Mexican policy of legislation.

TO GENERAL S. F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, Dec. 3, 1835.

DEAR SIR,

When the late convention organized a provisional government, that body adjourned to meet again on the first of March next, or sooner, if the governor and council should make a call, leaving the power in the government to advise a new election of delegates, with more ample powers than were delegated by the people to the late convention.

I am of opinion that there should be an ordinance of the provisional government, for calling a convention, and upon the plan of equality in representation, as nearly as possible; making a basis, say of one or two members from the smaller municipalities, and the larger in ratio of population: but inasmuch as your knowledge of the country and its interests must exceed that of most others among us, and your relations, of such character as to render your opinion of great weight, and calculated to harmonize popular feeling, in its present unsettled state, I am induced to request a full and fair expression of your views upon the subject, as the chairman of the committee on state affairs of the general council, that my committee might report an ordinance to the council, with all the possible advantages to the public, which the nature of the case requires. Believing that this object should be effected with expedition, your reply is requested at your earliest leisure.

With great respect, your obedient,
D. C. BARRET,
Chairman of com.
on state affairs.

TO D. C. BARRET, ESQ.

San Felipe de Austin, Dec. 3, 1835.

DEAR SIR,

I have just received your note of this date, in which you request my opinion, as to calling a convention, without delay, on the plan of equality of representation, as nearly as practicable.

In two communications, which I have made to the provisional government, under date 30 ult. and 2d inst., I took a view of the present political situation of the country, which has a close connection with the subject of your enquiry. I refer you to them, as those communications were of an official character; the object of which was to state facts, as I understood them. I gave no opinion as to when the convention should be called, believing it to be more proper to leave the provisional government to draw its own conclusions.

The present communication is of a different character: I am directly called upon to give an opinion. I should comply with

with great diffidence, and I can only state the profoundest and better judgment of the council (to which you may be submitted by you, as chairman of committee on state affairs) will direct the measures to be pursued, it may be.

The general consultation of Texas was elected at a time when the country was distracted by popular excitement, produced by the diversity of opinions which naturally resulted from the disbelief of some that the federal system would be destroyed, or was even attacked, the excited and intemperate zeal of others, and the general want of certain information in all. It could not be reasonably expected that a body elected under such circumstances, would be entirely free from the conflicting opinions that prevailed amongst their constituents, or that a clear and positively definite position would be taken by it. The majority of Texas, so far as an opinion can be formed, from the acts of the people at their primary meetings, was decidedly in favor of declaring in positive, clear and unequivocal terms, for the federal constitution of 1824, and for the organization of a local government, either as a state of the Mexican confederation, or provisionally, until the authorities of the state of Coahuila and Texas could be restored. This measure was absolutely necessary to save the country from anarchy; for it was left without any government at all, owing to the dispersion and imprisonment of the executive and legislative authorities, by the unconstitutional intervention of the military power. Some individuals were also in favor of independence, though no public meeting whose proceedings I have seen, expressed such an idea.

We have seen the consequence of these conflicting opinions, in the declaration made by the consultation, on the 7th of the last month. It is not entirely positive and definite in its character. Whether or not the crisis in which Texas is now placed, can be met and sufficiently provided for, by a position which admits of construction in its application, is a matter of opinion; as for myself, I believe it cannot.

The character of the struggle in which Texas is engaged, is now clearly developed: it evidently is one of life or death, "to be, or not to be." It is no longer a mere question about the forms of political institutions; it is one of self-preservation. Texas is menaced with a war of extermination: the government of Mexico has so proclaimed it. The people now understand their situation, and consequently are much better prepared to elect public agents, to provide against such a danger, than they were at the time of the last election. At that time, the form of government was not changed by any act which had the influence or the character of law; it now is by the decree of the 3rd of October last. At that time, the state government existed; at this, no such thing as a state exists, not even in name. The decree of the 3rd of October has converted them into departments, without any legislative powers whatever, and entirely subject to the orders of the president and central government in Mexico.

Again, the representation in the consul-

lation was very unequal, a principle that should be cautiously avoided, so far as practicable, in a body that is to settle the political disputes of a community where all are equally interested.

The consultation, foreseeing that such a crisis as the present might arrive, had very wisely provided for the calling a convention by the provisional government; and I am clearly of opinion it ought to be done with the least possible delay.

Another weighty reason in favor, is that the world are not yet sufficiently informed or enlightened on the causes or the merits of the present conflict. The people of Texas have been, and now are accused of being ungrateful rebels, who have repaid the favors and bounties of the nation with ingratitude and rebellion. This accusation is unfounded and unjust. That individuals have committed imprudences and even excesses, and by so doing, have injured the character and the best interests of Texas, by giving a pretext to our enemies to confound the whole of the people with those individuals, may be true; but when the causes of such excesses are sought for, they will be found to have proceeded from bad government, bad legislation, bad administration, or no government at all. Is this the fault of Texas? Whenever the people here have tried to get a local organization of their government, in order to correct and punish such excesses, they have been treated as rebels; so that the people are denounced because the want of local government produces anarchy; and whenever they attempt to apply a remedy, they are treated as ungrateful rebels! This country has been redeemed from the wilderness by the people who now live in it, and without any cost to the general government or to the nation. The settlers were stimulated to persevere and to overcome the most appalling difficulties, by the express guarantees of a liberal system of government, and of the right of self-government in their internal affairs, as a state of the Mexican confederation. The lands thus received were granted and sold by the state of Coahuila and Texas, and not by the general government, (except a few old grants, previous to the establishment of the federal system); and it is worthy of notice, that one of the crimes attributed to the authorities of Coahuila and Texas by the general government, as justification for its military intervention, was the granting of their lands; and yet the general government claims all the merit of having given them away to the Texans! These lands and this country, at the commencement of the settlement, fourteen years ago, were valueless, and so considered by the general government, they became the sole property of the state of Coahuila and Texas, and the state alone had the power to dispose of them. The state authorities have always considered them to be valueless, a proof of which is the manner in which they have been disposed of, given away for nothing to native Mexicans, in eleven-league tracts, and sold to them and to the colonists (for all the land acquired by foreign settlers was sold to them by the state) at from thirty to one hundred dollars per square league. On 1833, thirty square leagues of land were

voted by the late legislature, to a young man (who had previously received a grant of eleven leagues) as pay for one year's salary, for his services as a judge. Some eight hundred square leagues were sold by these legislators, in 1834 and 1835, to speculators, principally foreigners, and to themselves; for the same legislators who passed the law for a part of this sale, were purchasers, at from about fifty to seventy-five and a hundred dollars per square league.

It is not my intention to cast any censure on the legislators of Coahuila, or on the individuals who purchased; the object of the former was to raise funds out of the sale of Texas lands, to replenish the state treasury which was empty—the latter were speculators, whose object was to take advantages of any law or circumstance that favored their views. I have mentioned this subject to prove more clearly the fact, that all the legislation of both general and state governments, on the subject of Texas lands, has been based on the full belief that they were *valuable*, and that the nation and the state were great gainers by getting this wilderness settled, so as to have a barrier against the Indians; without any cost whatever to the nation, on the contrary, with the gain of from thirty to one hundred dollars per square league. There never has been any kind of organization in Texas, that merits even the name of a government, at least not since the year 1827. The moral principle of the people governed them, and kept the country quiet. Peace prevailed in this country, until last May: in that month, a revolutionary ball was thrown into it by the state authorities of Monclova, all valiant Mexicans; and since then, not a month, indeed scarcely a week has passed, without some act on the part of the general government or its authorities, to increase the irritation, and hurry this country into revolution, or into anarchy and ruin, so as to involve it in a war, to which they give the character of a national one against foreign adventurers. And yet, according to the general government of Mexico, the people of Texas alone are to be blamed for every thing, and deserve death. It is something like the fable of the wolf, who devoured a sheep for muddying the water of a brook in which they were both drinking at the same time, the wolf some hundred yards above the sheep. That some acts have been committed in Texas, which I have always disapproved, and still disapprove, is well known. They were reprobated and disapproved by the great mass of the people. But that these individual acts were of the rebel character, which the government of Mexico says they are, or that all Texas should be condemned to ruin on this account, is as false a pretext as that of the wolf for eating the sheep. The truth is that liberal and free principles must be banished from Texas, as they have been, or perhaps will be, from all Mexico, to suit the views of the central party. To do this, the people of Texas must be annihilated; and some reasons must be given to the world, for so harsh a measure. The rumours circulated by my enemies, that I was instructed, or in any way concerned in these large land sales and speculations, is false. This specimen of the ruinous legislation of Coahuila, as to

lands, is a fair specimen of their legislation in all other matters. A portion of this country has thus been thrown into the hands of speculators, entangled by conflicting claims. And the people of Texas are to be blamed for nothing. Was it their acts that involved this country in a perplexing land labyrinth, and in anarchy and revolution. No, it was the acts of native-born Mexican legislators and revolutionists. This subject, and all other matters connected with Texas, ought to be fully explained in a manifesto from the representatives of the people. This is therefore another reason why a convention ought to be called. The fact is now evident that Texas is engaged in a struggle for existence, against great numerical strength and resources; and she must supply her physical weakness, by the justice of her cause. If she cannot do this, she deserves to fall.

For the reasons expressed, I am of opinion a convention should be called, without any delay, to meet as soon as possible to hold the elections and convene the members. This is also the decided opinion of the citizens volunteers of the army, as expressed to me very generally, before I left the camp.

The provisional government will, of course, continue in full force, until changed by the convention. Their labors, in my opinion, have been directed by the purest desire to promote the general good, and merit the approbation of the country.

I remain, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

S. F. AUSTIN.

As the opinion of general Austin seems to us (as to Mr. Barrett) of some importance, we will give our readers a second letter from the same, written at a later period, when he was better informed which course of policy would secure us the aid of our brethren of the United States.

TO GENERAL SAM HOUSTON.

NEW ORLEANS, JAN. 7, 1836.

DEAR SIR,

In all our Texas affairs, as you are well apprised, I have felt it to be my duty to be very cautious in involving the pioneers and actual settlers of that country, by any act of mine, until I was fully and clearly convinced of its necessity, and of the capabilities of our resources to sustain it. Hence it is that I have been censured by some for being overcautious. Where the fate of a whole people is in question, it is difficult to be overcautious, or to be too prudent.

Besides these general considerations, there are others which ought to have weight with me individually. I have been, either directly or indirectly, the cause of drawing many families to Texas, also the situation and circumstances in which I have been placed have given considerable weight to my opinions. This has thrown a heavy responsibility upon me—so much so, that I have considered it to be my duty to be prudent, and even to control my own impulses, and feelings: these have long been impatient, under the state of things which has existed in Texas, and in favor of a speedy and radical change. But I have never approved of the course of forestalling public opinion, by par-

tying the question of Texas independence. The question of Texas independence is a question of vital importance, and has been decided, by Texas, which is a declaration of independence.

When I left there, I was of opinion that it was premature to stir this question, and that we ought to be very cautious of taking any step that would make the Texas war purely a national war, which would unite all parties against us, instead of its being a party war, which would secure to us the aid of the federal party. In this, I acted contrary to my own impulses: for I wish to see Texas free from the trammels of religious intolerance, and other anti-republican restrictions; and independent at once; and as an individual, have always been ready to risk my all to obtain it; but I could not feel justifiable in precipitating and involving others, until I was fully satisfied that they would be sustained.

Since my arrival here, I have received information which has satisfied me on this subject, I have no doubt we can obtain all, and even much more aid than we need. I now think the time has come for Texas to assert her natural rights; and were I in the convention I would urge an immediate declaration of independence. I form this opinion from the information now before me: I have not heard of any movement in the interior by the federal party, in favor of Texas, or of the constitution; on the contrary, the information from Mexico is that of parties are against us, owing to what has already been said and done in Texas, in favor of independence; and that we have nothing to expect from that quarter, but hostility. I am acting on this information, if it be true; and I have no reason to doubt it. Our present position in favor of the republican principles of the constitution of 1824, can do us no good; and it is doing us harm, by deterring those kind of men from joining us, who are most useful. I know not what information you may have in Texas, as to movements of the federal party in our favor, nor what influence they ought to have on the decision of this question, this being a matter which the convention alone can determine. I can only say, that with the information now before me, I am in favor of an immediate declaration of independence.

Santa Ana was at San Luis Potosi, according to the last accounts, marching on rapidly, with a large force against Texas. We must be united and firm; and look well to the month of March; and be ready. I shall try to be at home by that time.

Yours, respectfully,

S. F. AUSTIN.

JANUARY 8, 1836.

This day, we concluded a conditional loan for two hundred thousand dollars, which perhaps may be augmented fifty thousand more: we can only get 10 per cent advanced now, which is all we can raise at present in this place. Houston and Wharton will commence their purchases to-morrow. Flour is eight dollars; but we shall send about seven hundred barrels, two hundred of bread, and some beans.

Should a declaration of independence be made, there ought to be no limits prescribed on the south west or north west; the field should be left open for extending beyond the Rio Grande, and to Chihuahua and New Mexico.

S. F. A.

From the New Orleans Bee.

TO AN IMPARTIAL WORLD.

The unconstitutional oppression long and unremittently practised upon the colonists of Texas, having at length become insupportable, and having impelled them to take up arms in defence of their rights and liberties, it is due to the world that their motives, conduct and causes of complaint should be fully made known. In order to do this, it will be necessary to explain the origin, progress and present state of the colonial settlements. Without parade or useless preliminaries, I shall proceed to the subject, as substance and sound matter and not manner are the objects of the present discussion. It is known, at least to the reading and inquiring world, that on the dissolution of the connection between Mexico and Spain, in 1823, Don Augustin Iturbide, by corruption and violence, established a short lived and imperial government over Mexico, with himself at the head, under the title of Augustin the 1st. On arriving at supreme power Iturbide or Augustin the 1st, found that vast portion of the Mexican government, east of the Rio Grande, known by the name of Texas, to be occupied by various tribes of Indians, who committed incessant depredations on the Mexican citizens west of the Rio Grande, and prevented the populating of Texas. He ascertained that the savages would not be subdued by the arms of Mexico, nor could their friendship be purchased. He ascertained that the Mexicans, owing to their natural dread of Indians, could not be induced to venture into the wilderness of Texas. In addition to the dread of Indians, Texas held out no inducements for Mexican emigrants. They were accustomed to a lazy pastoral or mining life, in a healthy country. Texas was emphatically a land of agriculture—the land of cotton and of sugar cane, with the culture of which staples they were wholly unacquainted; and moreover it abounded in the usual concomitants of such southern regions—flies, mosquitoes, &c, which the Mexicans hated with a more than natural or reasonable hatred. Iturbide finding from those causes that Texas could not be populated with his own subjects, and that so long as it remained in the occupancy of the Indians, the inhabited part of his dominions continually suffered from their ravages and murders, undertook to expel the savages by the introduction of foreigners. Accordingly the national institute or council, on the 3rd day of January, 1823, by his recommendation and sanction, adopted a law of colonization, in which they invited the emigration of foreigners to Texas, on the following terms:

1st. They promise to protect their liberty, property and civil rights.

2nd. They offer to each colonist, one league of land (4,444 acres) for coming to Texas.

3d. They guarantee to each colonist the privilege of leaving the empire at any time,

with all his property, and also the privilege of selling the land which he may have acquired from the Mexican government (see the colonization law of 1823, more especially article 1st, 8th and 9th). These were the inducements and invitations held out to foreigners, under the imperial government of Iturbide or Augustin 1st. In a short time however, the nation deposed Iturbide, and deposited the supreme executive power in a body of three individuals. This supreme executive power, on the 30 of August 1824, adopted a national colonization law, in which they recognized and confirmed the imperial colonization law, with all its guarantees of person and property. It also conceded to the different states the privilege of colonizing the vacant lands within their respective limits (see national colonization law, articles 1st and 4th.) In accordance with this law, the state of Columbia & Texas, on the 24th March, 1825, adopted a colonization law, for the purpose expressed in the preamble, of protecting the frontiers, expelling the savages, augmenting the population of its vacant territory, multiplying the raising of stock, promoting the cultivation of its fertile lands, and of the arts and of commerce. In the colonization law of this state, the promises to protect the persons and property of the colonists, which had been made in the two preceding national colonization laws, were renewed and confirmed. We have now before us the invitations and guarantees under which the colonists emigrated to Texas. Let us examine into the manner in which these conditions have been complied with, and their flattering promises fulfilled. The donation of 4,444 acres of land sounds largely at a distance. Considering however all the circumstances, the difficulties of taking possession, &c, it will not be deemed an entire gratuity or magnificent bounty. If these lands had been previously pioneered by the enterprise of the Mexican government, and freed from the insecurities which beset a wilderness, trod only by savages—if they had been situated in the heart of an inhabited region, and accessible to the comforts and necessities of life—if the government had been deriving an actual revenue, and if it could have realized a capital from the sale of the same—then we admit, that the donation would have been unexampled in the history of individual or national liberality. But how lamentably different from all this was the real state of the case!

The lands granted were in the occupancy of savages, and situated in a wilderness, of which the government had never taken possession, and of which it could not, with its own citizen, ever have taken possession. They were not sufficiently explored to obtain that knowledge of their character and situation necessary to a sale of them. They were shut out from all commercial intercourse with the rest of the world, and inaccessible to the commonest comforts of life; nor were they brought into possession & cultivation by the colonists without much toil & privation, and patience and enterprise, and suffering and blood, and loss of lives from Indian hostilities and other causes. Under the smiles of a benignant heaven however, the untiring perseverance of the colonists triumphed over all natural obstacles, expel-

led the savages by whom the country was infested, reduced the forest into cultivation, and made the desert smile. From this it must appear that the lands of Texas, altho' nominally given, were in fact dearly bought. It may here be presumed that a gift of lands by a nation to foreigners on condition of emigrating and becoming citizens, is immensely different from a gift of one individual to another. In the case of individuals, the donor loses all further claim or ownership over the thing bestowed. But in our case the government only gave wild lands, that they might be redeemed from a state of nature; that the obstacles to a first settlement might be overcome; that they might be rid of those savages who continually depredated upon the inhabited parts of the nation; and that they might be placed in a situation to augment the physical strength and power and revenue of the republic. Is it not evident that Mexico now holds over the colonized lands of Texas the same jurisdiction and right of property which all nations hold over the inhabited parts of their territory? But to do away more effectually the idea that the colonists of Texas are under great obligations to the Mexican government, for their donations of land, let us examine at what price the government estimated the lands given. Twelve or thirteen years ago, they gave to a colonist one league of land for coming, he paying the government \$30, and this year (1825) they have sold hundreds of leagues of land for \$50 each. So that it appears that the government really gave us what in their estimation was worth \$20. A true statement of facts then is all that is necessary to pay at once that debt immense of endless gratitude which, in the estimation of the ignorant and interested, is due from the colonist to the government. I pass over the toil and suffering and danger which attended the redemption and cultivation of their lands by the colonists, and turn to their civil condition and to the conduct and history of the government. It is a maxim no less venerable for its antiquity than its truth—a maxim admitted and illustrated by all writers on political economy—and one that has been corroborated by experience in every corner of the earth, that miserable is the servitude and horrible the condition of that people whose laws are either uncertain or unknown. I ask with a degree of contradiction, if ours is not and has not been in Texas, the unhappy condition and miserable bondage spoken of in this maxim? Who of us knows, or can by possibility arrive at a knowledge of the laws that govern our property and lives? Who of us is able to read and understand and be entirely confident of the solidity of his title to the land he lives on, and which he has redeemed from a state of nature by the most indefatigable industry and perseverance? Who knows whether he has paid on his land all that government exacts, or whether he has paid ten times as much? Look at the mere mockery of all law and justice which has always prevailed in place of an able and learned judiciary. Alcaldes most of them unlearned in any system of jurisprudence, and unconversant with legal proceedings of any description, have been elected to administer a code scattered through hundreds of volumes, and written in languages of which they did not understand one word.

Who among us is able to confer with his rulers; to represent his wants and grievances, to ask advice, or recommend salutary changes? Have we had more than one or two organs of communication with the government, and must not they have been omniscient to have understood the wishes of the people, and incorruptible to have always correctly represented them? Who of us feels or ever has felt any reliance or can place any confidence in governmental matters, or can predict with any sort of certainty what in this respect a day may bring forth? There are thousands of other evils growing out of our present situation too hourly, universally and bitterly felt to require to be mentioned. Who will say that these things do not exist? Who will say that I have overcolored the mournful picture of our exalted condition? Who will say that we have not suffered the harassing uncertainty and miserable bondage here represented?

When the people of the United States commenced their war for independence against Great Britain, the friends of Britain charged them with ingratitude. They said that Britain had founded the colonies at great expense—had increased a load of debt by wars on their account—had protected their commerce, &c. This cannot be said of Mexico. Not one dollar has she spent for Texas—not one Mexican soldier has ever fought by our side, in expelling the savages. She has given no protection whatever; and as allegiance and protection are reciprocal, we have right to cast off her yoke. However, in my next, I pledge myself to demonstrate that the Mexicans are wholly incapable of self-government, and that on that principle we are bound by the first law of nature, self-preservation, to dissolve all connexion, and take care of ourselves.

CLINTON S.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE TELEGRAPH.

GENTLEMEN,

I would suggest, through the medium of your valuable paper, to his excellency the governor and to the council, that while our agents abroad are receiving donations to enable us to secure our liberty; and our friends contributing liberally, and making every exertion in our behalf; and while our army is heroically driving back the enemy, who appears to be only retiring to reinforce, and then overwhelm us; that, at this important crisis, the ladies of Texas can render some service to their threatened country, by making up clothing for her army. But, inasmuch as we have not the materials out of which to make the clothing, if suitable cloth can be furnished us, we will make it up without charge, and deposit it at the seat of justice, or with some proper person in each jurisdiction; and when the men are called out, and mustered into service, let them draw whatever is necessary to their comfort during the campaign. I am sure there can, in this way, be clothes made for a thousand men, which, at the lowest prices, would save the state several thousand dollars. But the greatest advantage would be, having clothes at hand. In the last campaign, many could not go because they had not clothing suitable for the tour, and others were obliged to return home bare, before

the siege was over. During the war between the United States and Great Britain, when the venerable Shelby was governor of Kentucky, the ladies of that state supplied the Kentucky troops with clothing which did not cost the government one cent. And why cannot the ladies of Texas do the same? Have we not as much patriotism as our mothers and grand-mothers? Let us in honor to their memory follow their good example; and while our husbands, brothers, fathers and sons, vanquish an invading tyrant, let us be busy in preparing them comfortable raiment. If we use every means in our power to help ourselves, our agents can with better grace solicit help for us. And surely there is no neighborhood where there is not one or more men who have patriotism and energy enough to take and distribute the material among us, and receive and deposit the clothes when made. The writer of this has made the proposal in her own immediate neighborhood, and judging of other places by her success in this, feels confident that the women of Texas would, if necessary, do ten thousand dollars worth of work for those who stand between them and danger.

A LADY OF TEXAS.

The following persons are elected members to the Convention, from the different municipalities, as far as we have been able to learn, viz:

Municipality of Sabine.

James Gaines,
Wm. Clark.

Municipality of San Augustin.

M. Palmer,
E. O. Legrand,
S. B. Blount.

Municipality of Nacogdoches.

T. J. Rusk,
J. S. Roberts,
C. S. Taylor,
J. K. Allen, } *contested*.
R. Potter, }

Municipality of Washington.

Jesse G. Innes,
G. B. Swisher,
Dr. S. Barnett,
Dr. B. B. Goddich,

Municipality of Mina.

T. J. Gazly,
R. M. Coleman,
Buntion.

Municipality of Milam.

John Childress,
S. C. Robertson.

Municipality of Columbia.

James Collinsworth,
J. S. D. Byrom,
Asa Brigham
E. Waller,

Municipality of Matagorda.

B. Hardiman,
R. R. Royall, } *contested*.
S. R. Fisher, }

Municipality of Colorado.

Wm Menifee,
W. D. Lacy,

Municipality of Harrisburg.

Lorenzo de Zavala,
A. Briscoe.

Municipality of Liberty.

M. B. Menard,
A. B. Hardin.

Municipality of Bexar.

Erasmus Seguin
Antonio Navarro,
Col. Ruiz,
Miguel Arciniega,

Municipality of Jackson.

James Kerr,
Stapp.

Municipality of Goliad.

Dr. Motley,
Incarnacion Bascas.

AN ORDINANCE AND DECREE

Supplemental to "an ordinance appointing a collector of public dues on lands and defining his duties."

Be it ordained and decreed, and it is hereby ordained and decreed by the general council of the provisional government of Texas, that the collector of public dues upon all lands, as set forth in the ordinance and decree to which this ordinance and decree is a supplement, be and is hereby authorized and empowered to receive from any person or persons, in payment of the amount which they owe this government, any order, draft or claim which has been duly audited and drawn for, on the treasurer of this government; and if the order, draft, or claim aforesaid, should exceed the amount of money so owed by any person or persons, then, and in that case, the said collector shall endorse the same upon the said order, draft, or claim, the amount of money paid by any person or persons to said government, and take triplicate receipt of the same, one to be retained by the collector, one given to the person paying said debt, and the other sent to the treasurer of this government; and for the said collector to set forth in said receipt the amount of said order, draft, or claim, in whose name it was drawn, and the date of the same.

Be it further ordained and decreed, and it is hereby ordained and decreed by the authority aforesaid, that any person or persons owing this Government any money or monies, shall have the authority to pay all they owe, whether the same be due or not. And the principal collector be, and is hereby empowered and authorized, to receipt for the same, taking care to receipt for the several sums of money, in the same manner as he would have done, had he collected the same, as the several sums become due.

Passed at San Felipe de Austin, January 15th, 1836.

JOHN McMULLIN,
President pro temp. of
General Council.

EDW. B. WOOD,
Secretary pro temp. of Gen. Council.
Approved, January 19, 1836.

JAMES W. ROBINSON,
Acting Governor.

EDW. B. WOOD,
Secretary to Executive.

COMMUNICATION.

"Live or die, sink or swim, survive or perish, I go for this measure."
Adams.

In the disease of the body politic, as in those of the human system, there is a crisis at which there begins an approach to a favorable or an unfavorable issue. Whether in the convulsions of the Mexican republic that crisis has arrived, I leave those to decide who are better versed than I am in the constitution of that people. Certain it is, however, that if it has arrived, every thing indicates the most disastrous termination. The spirit of constitutional freedom, the *rix* medicatrix of this system, made its final effort in unhappy Zacatecas; and every member of the entire system, save Texas, feels the *cold chills* of religious despotism. She, though exposed to all the causes of the late convulsions, which prostrated the other members of the confederacy, still live. Nor with her has the eventful crisis arrived, though it near approaches. Six weeks will determine whether Texas is to live uncombed and in full vigor, hurling back the insolent denunciations of that miserable tool of papal tyranny, Santa Ana, or whether she is to continue in the palsy connection with the fallen members of the body politic, inhaling the vile effluvia of slavery from them, and suffering in the sympathetic spasms of their chain galled limbs. That Texas will not; that, on the contrary, she will resolve to shake herself from states rotting and corrupting in slavery and fear, we have every reason to hope. Indeed, hope has almost been changed into certainty. But let it not be forgotten, while we are cherishing this hope, that to re-lie it, is not the only desirable result of the deliberations of the convention to be assembled in Washington: unanimity is another. If not quite the *sine qua non* of success, all must admit that it would add greatly to the sublimity of the spectacle of an injured people, standing up in the wilderness, and declaring the great doctrine of political regeneration, that whenever any form of government shall become subversive of their rights, it is the duty, as well as the right of men, to throw off such government, and provide new guards for their future security. When, in accordance with that regenerating truth, the people, through their agents, shall declare independence, and proceed to the erection of a new government for their future security, how much would it add to the moral sublimity of her attitude. And how irresistible would be her arm, if the bosom of each of her sons should swell with the resolution that "live or die, sink or swim, survive or perish, they go for this measure." This was the fervent language of one of the patriots of the American revolution of '76; and why should it not be the language of every patriot of the Texas revolution of '35? Comparing the two revolutions, in every point of view, the revolution now going on in Texas is as just and heart-stirring as the revolution which separated America from England. And who does not, at this day, feel pained, when he reflects how many torments the men of that revolution had to contend against; how much it detracted from the grandeur of that revolution; and how much honor it added to it, that men good

in every respect, except their tory principles, should be muzzled like dogs, from the very groves of trees, whenever and wherever they might be found; and that too by their countrymen and neighbors. This should be a warning voice to Texas, by every principle of interest and pride, to seek to convince one and all, that what she does, whatever it may be, is just and for the common good, and to do whatever the majority may decide upon, with one heart and one will, in obedience to that warning voice. I shall, in another number, inquire into the principles of the Texas revolution. Come, let us reason together. The press, thank God, is still free; and no man in Texas has yet taken a step which he may not retrace with honor.

A.

UNITED MEXICAN STATES.

As a deadly struggle is about to begin between Texas and the other parts of Mexico, we suppose the following statistics may not be uninteresting, at least to many of our readers. It is copied from the *Comprehensive Atlas*, which Mr. Fay, as agent, is now soliciting patronage for in this city.

AREA. The territory of the republic, of which the official style *Estados Unidos Mexicanos* has been changed to *Republica Mexicana*, extends from the 15th to the 42nd degree of northern latitude, and from the 86th to the 125th of western longitude, having an area of 1,960,000 square miles.

DIVISION. The Mexican confederacy was composed of nineteen states, the federal district of Mexico, and four territories, as follows:

States & Territories.	Pop.	Capit.	Pop.
Federal district,	—	Mexico,	180,000
Yucatan,	500,000	Merida,	5,000
Chiapas,	160,000	Chichen,	3,000
Tobasco,	85,000	Tobasco,	5,000
Oaxaca,	320,000	Oaxaca,	40,000
Vera Cruz,	233,000	Jalappa,	30,000
Puebla,	800,000	Puebla,	50,000
Mexico,	1,000,000	Fladuan,	5,000
Guerrero,	200,000	Guerrero,	40,000
Guatemala,	500,000	Valadocin,	25,000
Guatemala,	450,000	Guatemala,	40,000
Xalisco,	800,000	Guadalupe,	65,000
San Luis Potosi,	250,000	San Luis,	20,000
Zacatecas,	300,000	Zacatecas,	25,000
New Leon,	150,000	Monterey,	15,000
Tampanipus,	175,000	Aguazco,	6,000
Durango,	200,000	Durango,	25,000
Cochila and Texas,	130,000	Mouclon,	6,000
Chihuahua,	125,000	Chihuahua,	30,000
Sonora and Sinaloa,	200,000	Villa del Fuerte,	4,000
New Mexico, (territ.)	150,000	Santa Fe,	5,000
Upper California,	20,000	Monterey,	25,000
Lower California,	20,000	Loreto,	2,000

Tobascala and Colima consist merely of those cities and their vicinities.

The population of the whole confederacy is not far short of 8,000,000, to-wit: 4,000,000 Indians; 1,500,000 Creoles, descendants of Europeans; and the remainder mixed breeds. The mixed breeds are: Mulattoes, the descendants of a white and a black; Mestizoes, of a white and an Indian; and Zambos, of blacks and Indians, &c. The inhabitants are all Roman Catholics.

Louis. Advert.

COPY

of a letter received by express from col. Travis.

Commandancy of Bajar, Feb. 23, 3 o'clock.

To THE JUDGE AND CITIZENS OF GONZALES,

The enemy, in large force, is in sight. We want men and provisions—send them to us. We have 150 men, and are determined to defend the place to the last. Give us assistance.

W. B. TRAVIS, Lieut. Col. Comd't.

P. S. Send an express to San Felipe, with the news, night and day.

T.

From the New Orleans Commercial Bulletin.

TEXAS.

We call the attention of our readers to the communication made by Col. Austin to the provisional government of Texas on the 30th November last, which we publish to-day, from the Texas Telegraph, and to the decree of the self-styled general congress of Mexico of 3d of October last.

The documents present a succinct and clear view of the merits of the contest between Texas and the existing authorities of Mexico.

The said decree annihilates at one blow all the state legislatures, and converts the governors' and other state authorities into mere agents of the central government, dependent on the will or whim of the dictator.

To understand more fully the extent of the outrage which has been committed upon the constitution, it is necessary to bear in mind, that this general congress was elected under the constitution of 1824, with constitutional powers alone; that the members took the oath prescribed by that constitution, to observe and sustain it, and that in violation of this oath the two houses decreed themselves into a convention, and united in one house or chamber, thus destroying the senate and usurping powers which were never granted.

It would be a parallel case if the congress of these United States were to decree at the present session that it possessed full powers as a national convention, uniting the senate and House of Representatives in one chamber, and thus constituted, was to change the form of government, destroy all the State legislatures, and establish a monarchy or any other system of government. In such an event is there one of the States who would not and ought not to resist?

The opponents of the cause of Texas, and those who have been lukewarm or indifferent in it, are bound to study this subject and inform themselves of its real merits, for otherwise they expose themselves to the charge of being antagonists of constitutional governments, of liberty and human right.

The untiring efforts of col. Austin, for the last fifteen years, to populate Texas with an industrious, agricultural people, whose education and habits are equally calculated to diffuse right and liberal principles over the benighted regions of Mexico, and harmonize with their neighbors on the east and north, is laudable; and his exertions at the present crisis to resist oppression, and inform the public as to the true merits of the contest in which Texas is engaged, merits the approbation of the lovers of liberty and truth. Unassuming in his manners or pretensions, his ambition seems to be limited to promote the cause of constitutional freedom, and the prosperity of his adopted country.

From the same.

The meeting held at Bishop's Hotel, on Wednesday evening last, for the purpose of receiving the commissioners delegated from the provisional government of Texas, was one of the largest and most respectable meetings that we have seen convened at New Orleans.

The object of the meeting was, with much eloquence, explained by the commissioners and other gentlemen who spoke on the occasion; and their remarks must have brought home conviction to the minds of all, of the justice of that cause in which the Texans are engaged for the preservation of their constitutional rights. Scarcely as to the purity of the motives of those enlisted on behalf of this people, should yield to a strong and efficient sympathy in the noble and just stand they have taken. A train of victorious events has, thus far, attended their struggle, and unless crushed by a more formidable power than Mexico, in her enervated state, can bring to rest upon them, the inhabitants of the fertile province of Texas will have strangled the hydra of despotic force and lawless rule, at least on their soil, and put in embryo the means that sooner or later will regenerate the whole of the heurited and distracted misnamed republic of Mexico.

We have ever been hearty well-wishers to the success of Texian emancipation from that thralldom into which evil and usurped domination would cast her, and we have, with no ordinary interest and anxiety, watched her course, from the first incipient efforts to resist tyranny, until we rejoice in the fact that she has made her foes to yield, and proclaim to the world that not a minion of the tyrants now stains her soil. In a cause where freedom are contending for their most invaluable privileges, we cannot stop to make calculations on the probable amount of profit and loss that may result from success or defeat, as it may be to certain projects of our own country. We would graduate the worth of such principles as the Texans are contending for, on a higher scale than the rise and fall of the staple products of the land, allowing them not to weigh a feather in the scale, when the support and the spread of such institutions as we are ourselves living under, and from which we are drawing all that is worth preserving, become the matter at issue.

For such we really believe Texas is struggling, and thus believing, we cannot do otherwise than wish her, with all our hearts, full and triumphant success.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

The operation of receiving public dues on land, under the provisions of the ordinance and decree published in the present number of the Telegraph, is so complicated, and attended with so much difficulty, that further payments will not be received, till I can obtain, from the authorities, more definite instructions.

G. BORDEN Jr.

THOMAS BARNETT is my lawful attorney and agent during my absence from Texas.

3t

N. CLOPPER.

W. M. J. HEARD is my agent during absence from Texas.

THOS. J. WINSTON
San Felipe.

noy 21st

NOTICE.

ANDREW PONTON, Esq. is appointed Deputy Collector to receive dues upon all lands given, granted, or sold, in De Witt's Colony.

G. BORDEN, Jr.

Principal Collector for the Department of Brazos.

NOTICE.

ALL PERSONS are cautioned not to trade for a note of hand for Four Hundred Dollars, given by Marshall Perry and James Stephenson, as security, and payable to the subscriber, or bearer; due on the 1st of October next, date not recollected. Also, one note on James Tylee, for Fifty-Five Dollars, due on the 1st of January last; and another note on the same for \$60, due at the same time, as said notes have been taken from my possession without my knowledge or consent; and the said Perry and Tylee are notified not to pay said notes to any person but myself, or my order.

PAMELIA MANN.

San Felipe de Austin Jan. 18, 1836.

NOTICE.

ALL PERSONS indebted to us by note or account for the business done at this place during the last year, will please make it convenient to call and make payment immediately.

JOHNSON & WINBURN.

San Felipe de Austin, Jan. 23, 1836.

NOTICE.

ALL PERSONS having claims against the estate of John Brown, deceased, are notified to present them, legally authenticated, on or before the first of April next, otherwise the said claims will be barred; and all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment.

THOMAS BARNETT,

Jan 30th

Executer.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON.

A PUBLIC SALE of lots in the town of Washington, will take place on the first Monday in March next, and will be continued on the two subsequent days. By order of the proprietors.

J. B. MILLER, agent,

Jan 30th

DURING my absence, I have appointed **G. Borden, Jr.** my special agent to collect my debts due me, and receipt for the same.

S. F. AUSTIN.

dec 26th

LAW NOTICE.

THE PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing between Travis & Nibbs, has been dissolved by limitation. The unfinished business entrusted to them will be attended to by Travis & Starr. **W. B. Travis** and **Franklin J. Starr** have associated themselves in the practice of the law, and will attend to business in the courts of San Felipe, Washington, and the adjoining municipalities. One or both of them will be constantly found at their office in San Felipe.

January 20, 1836.

NOTICE.

THE SUBSCRIBER respectfully informs the public that he has opened his house on Mill Creek, for the entertainment of travellers. His house will all times be furnished with the best fare the country affords, and his stable with corn and fodder for horses.

WILLIAM PETTUS.

I HAVE appointed my brother-in-law, **James F. Perry**, my sole general agent to attend to all my business during my absence from Texas.

S. F. AUSTIN.

dec 26th

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE.

The undersigned, having been appointed administratrix of the estate of **Samuel Heady, dec'd**, requests all persons indebted to said estate, to come forward, and settle the same; and all those holding claims against the estate, will present them duly authenticated, within the term prescribed by law, or they will be barred.

ELIZABETH HEADY.

Administratrix.

San Felipe, Feb. 23, 1836.

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NOTICE

IS hereby given that the **CUSTOM HOUSE** for the despatch of business connected with the Port of Copano, is established at the town of "Mission del Refugio."

San Antonio de Bexar, Jan. 31 1836.

EDWARD GRITTEN,
Collector.

THE TELEGRAPH

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JOSEPH BAKER & BORDENS.

SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

Advertisements (to be paid for when handed in,) occupying eight lines or less, one dollar for the first, and fifty cents for each subsequent insertion. Longer advertisements in the same proportion.

Job printing must be settled previous to its leaving the office.